©井貫徹彦・大岡創人

天空之狗vs天空之蛇。
宇宙より飛来し、
人類の歴史に潜みし異星人同士の争いは、
全人類を支配下に置こうとする砂探の野望のため、
地球の未来に大きな影響を及ぼす戦いとなっていった!!
『天空之狗』最終巻をお楽しみください。

永井豪

天空之狗

TENKU NO INU

4

永井豪とダイナミックプロ

MORNING KC

モーニングKC1452

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狗井新平

フリーターだったが、旅行先で遭遇した事件で自分の隠れた能力を知り、天空社へ入社。しかし、まだ超能力をうまく使うことができない。

天津 力

天空社の敏腕社長。時を越える能力を持つ"時渡り"の天狗。江戸時代では若干3歳。

葛城 音

"ゲイコダイケ"という人形の神様に育てられた江戸時代での名は雷蔵之助。

秋葉

天空社社長・天津力の懐刀。超人的な力をもつ。情報収集にたけている。

仁面亀男

天空之蛇のメンバー。砂探と共に"天空社"出雲支店として潜入していた。

亜門 輝

天空之蛇のメンバー。幽霊を取り入れた設計、通称"デビルウルフ"。

砂探 亮

天空之蛇 幻神会の新たな指導者。天空社に出資者として潜入していた。

出羽聖悟

雪梁山のオカルト雑誌月刊『ミステリの館』記者。"サイコバリア"という超能力を使う。

鞍馬 蘭

「天狗」記者人編集者。自分の心を読まれてしまう"天狗の隠れ蓑"という能力を持つ。

小角天堂

天空社の創業者。不死の天狗役行者。"心"時代では将軍家御剣衛用人を務める。

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TEN-KU NO INU

天空の狗

4

永井豪と
ダイナミックフロ

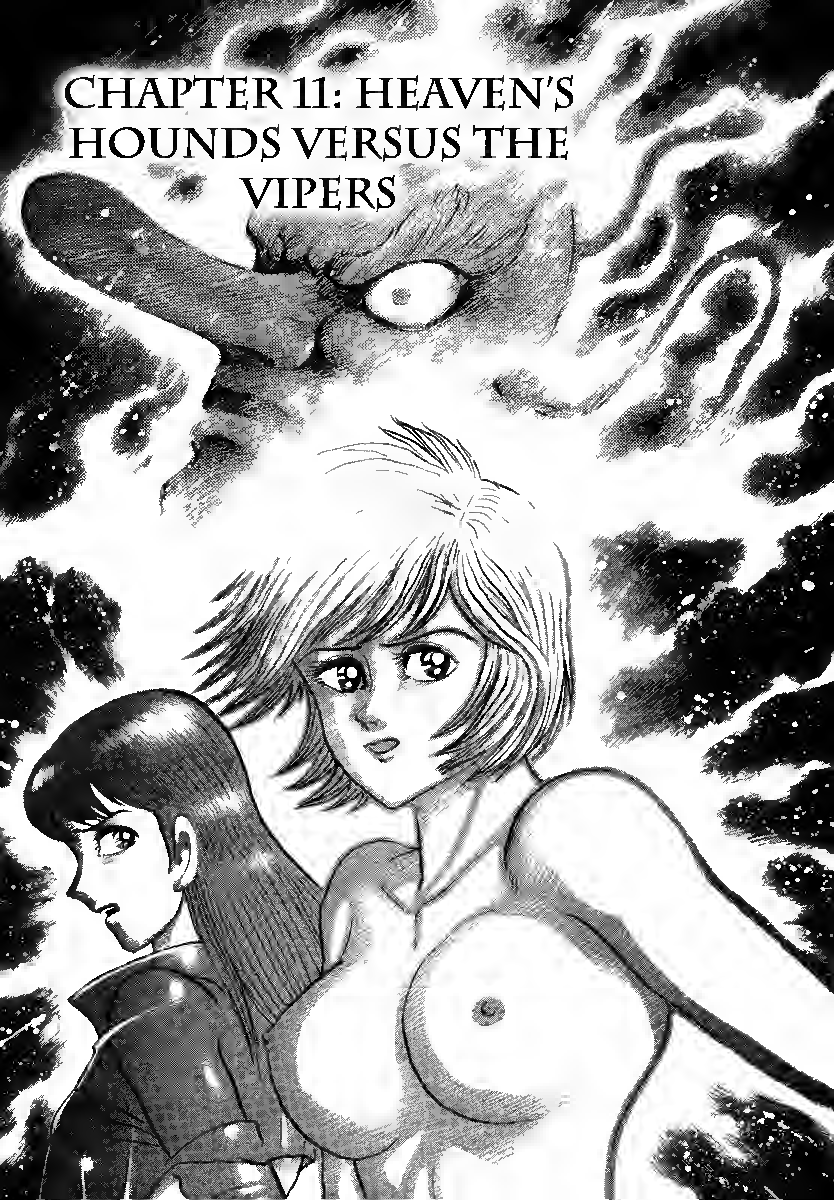
CONTENTS

第1章 天空之狗と蛇 3

第2章 魔神の戦い 81

第3章 江戸の闇 100

CHAPTER 11: HEAVEN'S HOUNDS VERSUS THE VIPERS



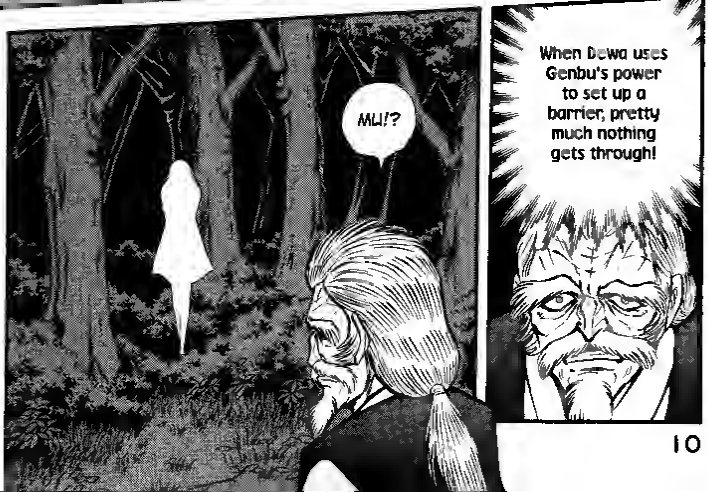
KENGO DEWA OF HEAVEN, INC. HAS MELDED WITH THE MAGATSUHI OF GENBU?
GENBU! ONE OF THE FOUR SACRED BEASTS!
NOT BAD! THINGS JUST GOT REAL INTERESTING!

ヒッ
ケケケ

ウオオーッ

I HAVE HARDENED INTO MY SHELL IN THIS FORM, NO ATTACK CAN HARM ME!

WOOOOOH!


When Dewa uses Genbu's power to set up a barrier, pretty much nothing gets through!
MU!?

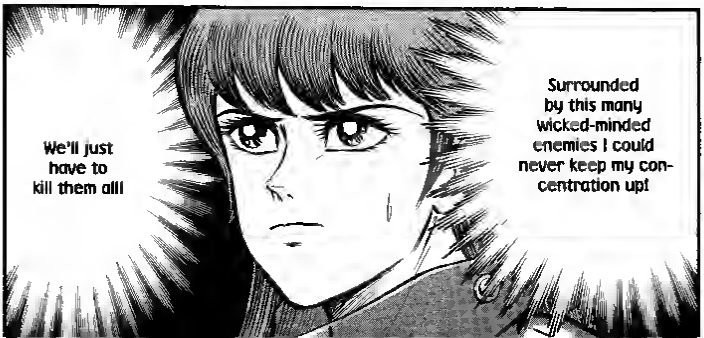
タッタッタッ
is that you, Chikara?
CHIKARA?
NO!
THAT'S NOT PRESIDENT AMATSU!
THAT IS...

MEDUSA

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE KOUJIN GROUP!
THE TIME HAS COME TO SHOW OFF YOUR TRUE BEAUTY.
BEAUTY FAR, FAR SUPERIOR TO MERE HUMANS!

ゲゲゲ…

Impossible!
Aoi! Can you use 'slow time?'


Surrounded by this many wicked-minded enemies I could never keep my concentration up!
We'll just have to kill them all!

LOOK! THESE ARE THE TRUE FORMS OF THE MOST ELITE MEMBERS OF THE KOUJIN GROUP, GIVEN TO THEM BY THEIR MAGATSUHI!!
ARE THEY NOT SO MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE VILE, PUNY HUMANS!?

We can't count on much from the other two...
With the people we have here, I don't think there's much chance--but we have no choice!
You see a way out of this?

I'll take Satan, and you take the rest, Aoi!

Gotcha...

GYAAAAAAH!
AH!
!?
KURAMA!

I SEE YOU NOW, KURAMA!
SATAN!

MUUUUN!
GUGUGI

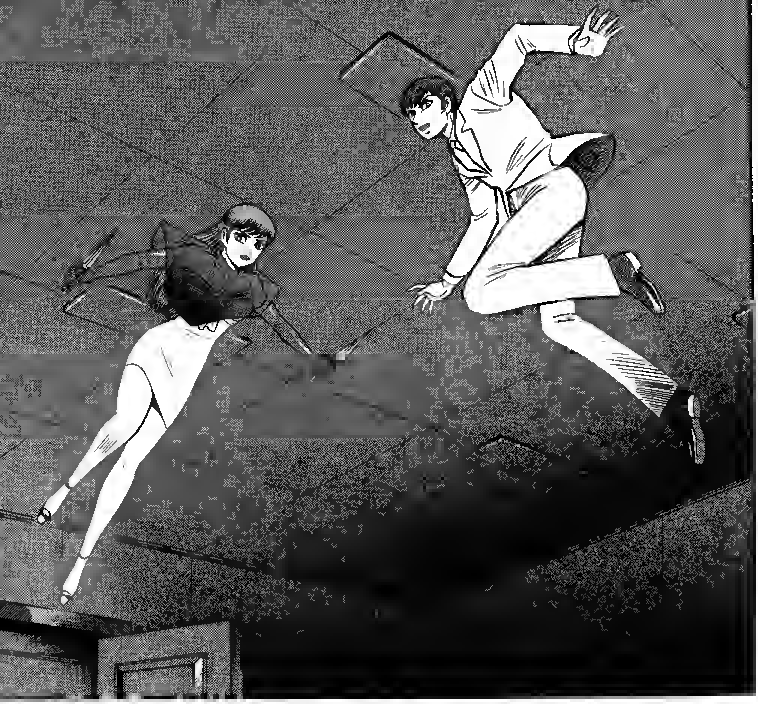
KURAMA! YOU'RE RIGHT THERE!
AH!

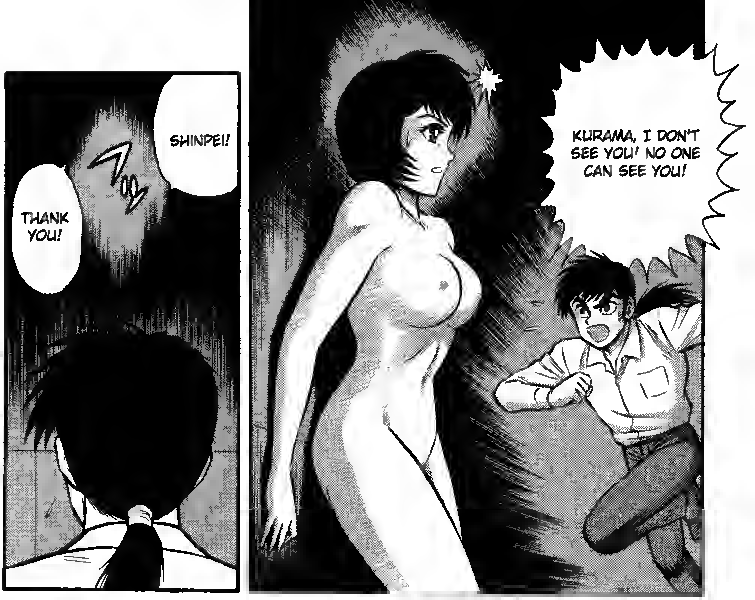
LOOK INTO MY EYES!

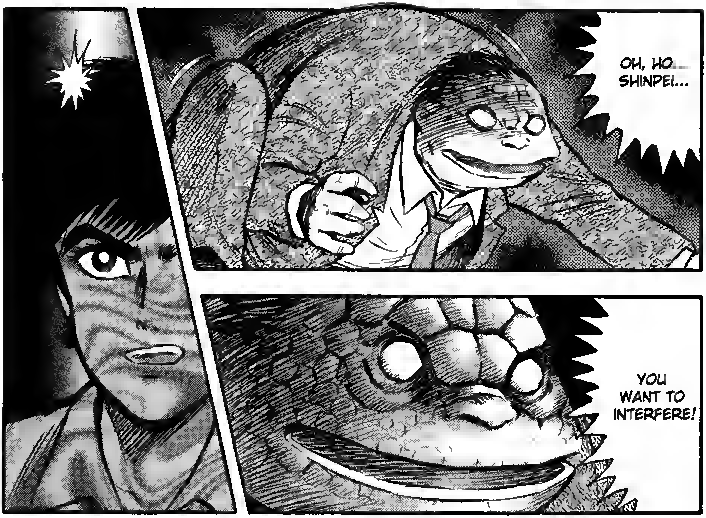
KUR-AMA!
!?

I'M GONNA REVEAL YOU, KURAMA! BECAUSE I'M THE GUY WHO LOVES TO SHOW OFF A PERSON'S TRUE FORM!!
AHHH!?
HEY! HEY!
AHHH !?
SO CUTE... KURAMA, BABY!
I AIN'T GONNA KILL YOU...I'M GONNA KEEP YOU AS MY PET!
AHAHAHAH! I CAN SEE YOU, KURAMA, BABY!

IZUMO!
DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH HER!




KURAMA, I DON'T SEE YOU! NO ONE CAN SEE YOU!
SHINPEI!
THANK YOU!


OH, HO... SHINPEI...
YOU WANT TO INTERFERE!

I MEAN.. IZUMO!? JINMEN!
SINCE HE DOESN'T KNOW IF YOU'RE A DOG OR A SNAKE, SATAN HAS STANDING ORDERS NOT TO TAKE YOUR LIFE!
BUT IF YOU MEAN TO CHALLENGE ME IN LOVE, THAT CHANGES THINGS, RIGHT!? KA KA KA. ..

!?
THE HOUNDS OF HEAVENS CAN DO IT TOO!! I MIGHT EVEN BE A HOUND, FOR ALL I KNOW!!
MELDING WITH THE MAGATSUHI, FOR EXAMPLE....
WHY THIS KILLING MADNESS!? WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THERE IS ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DOGS AND SNAKES!
!?
AMON!?

RYO SATAN!

WHAT HAVE YOU COME TO SAY?!
AHAH HAH.. AMON!
BOTH OF US CAME FROM OUTER SPACE, BUT EVERYTHING ELSE IS JUST LEGENDS!
SNAKE AND DOG ALIKE HAVE BEEN EMBEDDED WITHIN HUMAN HISTORY FOR EONS!
THERE IS NO WAY OF KNOWING IF YOU ARE A VIPER OF HEAVEN EITHER!

AMON, IT IS CERTAINLY A POSSIBILITY THAT WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, THERE IS NO PROOF ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.
BUT DOES IT TRULY MATTER ANYMORE?
THE DIFFERENT BETWEEN SNAKES AND DOGS IS THEIR WAY OF THINK-ING. THEIR IDE-OLOGIES ARE DIFFERENT!
THE WAY THEY CONFRONT THE EARTHLINGS IS DIFFERENT!

EVEN THOUGH WE LOOK EXACTLY THE SAME, WE POSSESS DIFFERENT POWERS AND DNA. THEY WILL DISCOVER US IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE!!
AT THE FIERCE PACE AT WHICH HUMAN CULTURE IS DEVELOPING, IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF TIME BEFORE THEY REALIZE WE ARE ALIENS.
THE MANNER IN WHICH THE HEAVEN'S HOUNDS HAVE LIVED WILL NOT SUFFICE FOR MUCH LONGER!
ACTING AS OBSERVERS, OR QUIETLY OVERSEEING AND MANIPULATING HUMAN EVENTS LIKE INVISIBLE KABUKI STAGE HANDS DRESSED IN BLACK...WE HAVE TO THINK BEYOND THIS!!

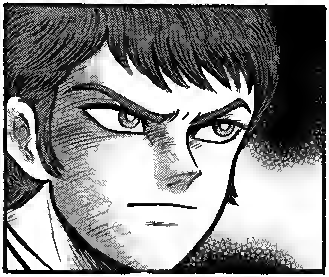
YOU THINK ALIENS ARE GODS!? WE'RE NOT, ARE WE?
WE'RE IMMIGRANTS FROM ANOTHER WORLD!
WE ARE REFUGEES WHOSE CULTURE HAPPENED TO BE MORE ADVANCED THAN THE PEOPLES OF EARTH!

HAVE A LOOK AT HUMAN HISTORY. PEOPLE ARE TERRIFYING CREATURES WATCHING OVER THEM FONDLY AS IF THEY WERE DOGS WILL BE DISASTROUS!
SOMEDAY, THE HUMANS WILL DESTROY US!
THERE ARE JUST A TINY NUMBER OF US ALIEN DESCEND-ANTS!!

BEFORE THE EARTHLINGS BECOME AWARE OF OUR EXISTENCE, WE MUST TAKE CONTROL OF ALL OF EARTH!
A TINY GROUP LIKE US HAS MUCH TO DO AND SCANT TIME TO DO IT IN!
IN OTHER WORDS

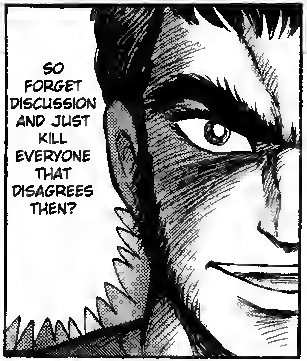
YOU'RE SAYING THIS DISPUTE BETWEEN THE VIPERS OF HEAVEN AND THE HOUNDS OF HEAVEN IS JUST AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN HAWKS AND DOVES?

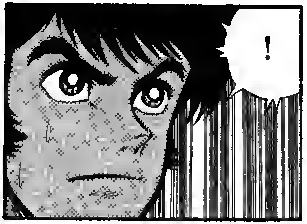
FE...IN OTHER WORDS, SATAN...



THERE'S NO FUTURE IN BEING A HOUND!
SHINPEI, YOU'D BEST THINK THIS OVER, TOO!

TALK IS USELESS, THAT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE START!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? VIPERS AND HOUNDS HAVE LONG KNOCKED HEADS OVER POLAR OPPOSITE OPINIONS!

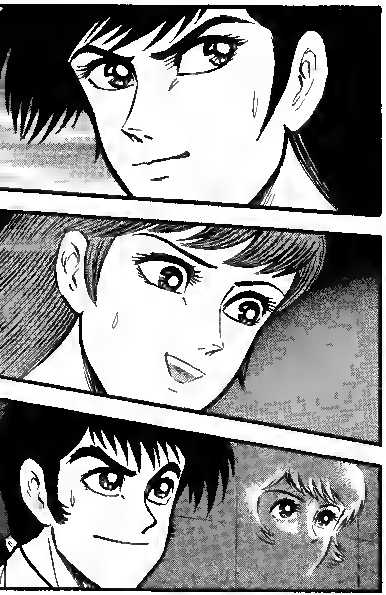

SO FORGET DISCUSSION AND JUST KILL EVERYONE THAT DISAGREES THEN?

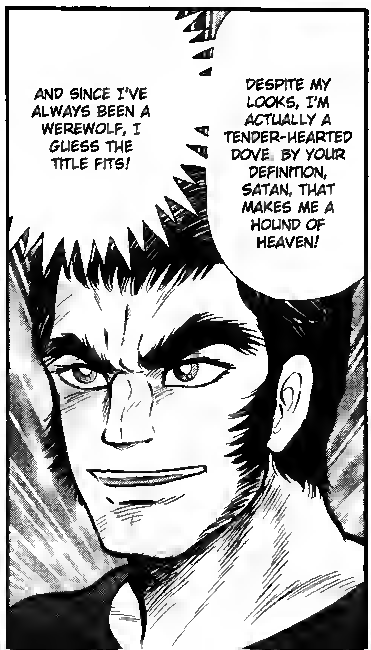

!

SO DOES THAT MEAN THAT TALK IS USELESS WITH ME, TOO!?
ARE YOU THINKING OF BETRAYING US, AMON!?
ARE YOU A DOG!?
!?

I AM NOT THE TRAITOR HERE!
IT IS THE KOUJIN GROUP THAT BETRAYED ME!
AND THE ONE WHO TURNED THEM AGAINST ME IS YOU, SATAN!!

COULDN'T YOU JUST RECONSIDER?
I REALLY HADN'T PLANNED ON FIGHTING YOU!
YOU'RE QUITE THE TROUBLESOME PERSON, AMON!

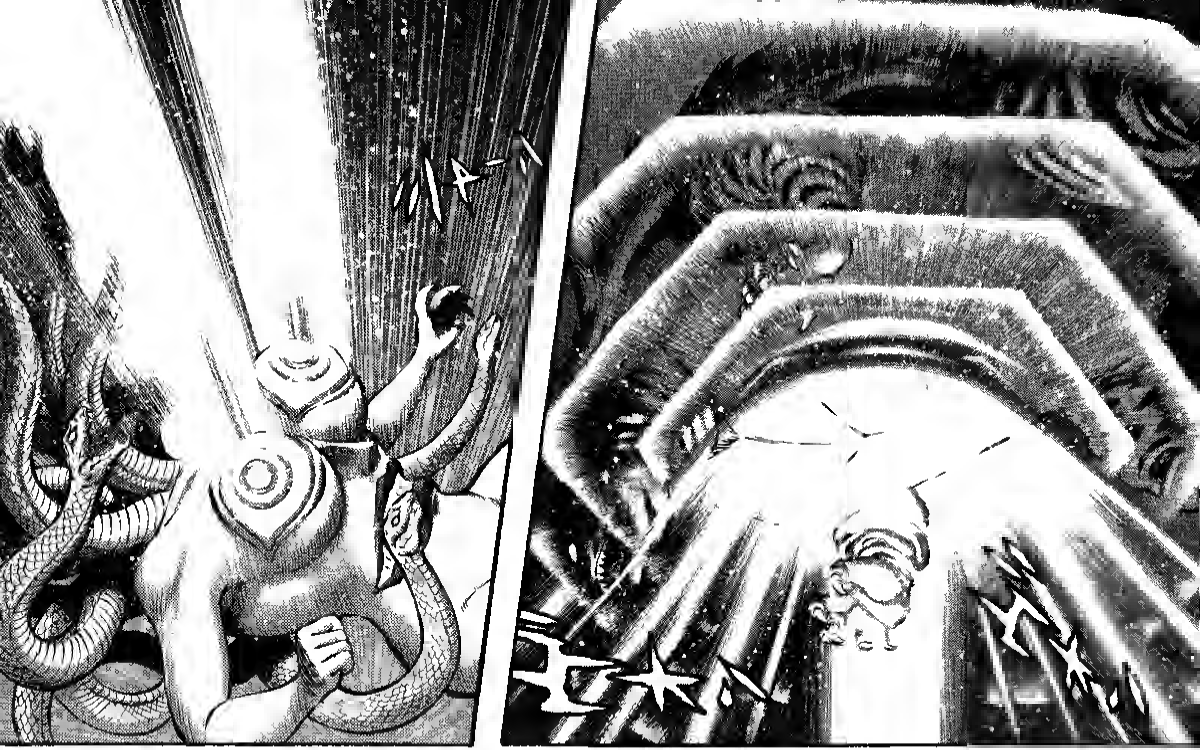



AND SINCE I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A WEREWOLF, I GUESS THE TITLE FITS!
DESPITE MY LOOKS, I'M ACTUALLY A TENDER-HEARTED DOVE. BY YOUR DEFINITION, SATAN, THAT MAKES ME A HOUND OF HEAVEN!

LOOK OUT!
DEWA!?

GUAAAA!

ドカ
ドカ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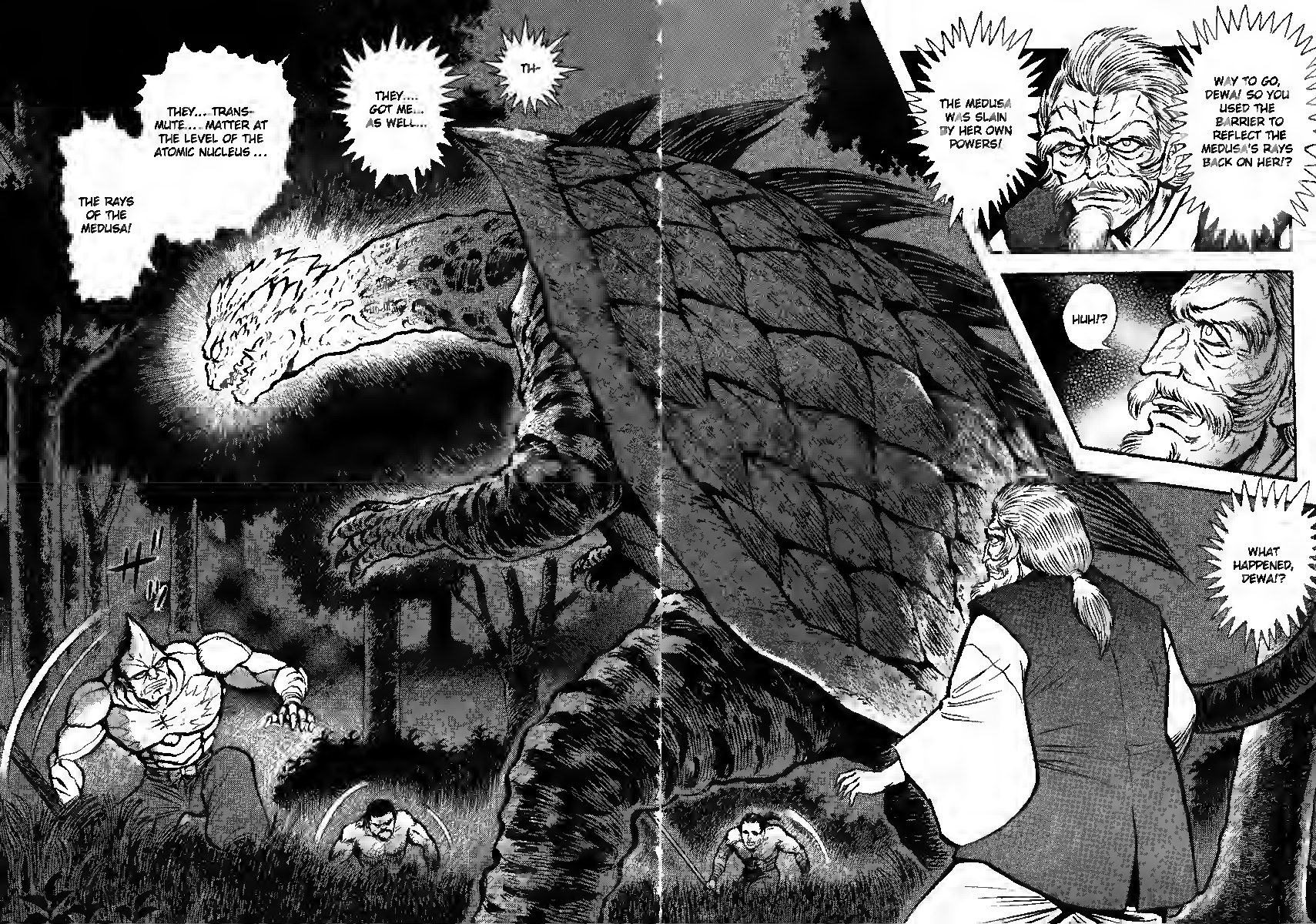
ニヤーー

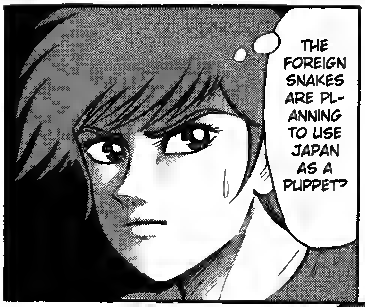

THEY... TRANS-MUTE... MATTER AT THE LEVEL OF THE ATOMIC NUCLEUS ...
THE RAYS OF THE MEDUSA!
THEY... GOT ME... AS WELL...
TH-
THE MEDUSA WAS SLAIN BY HER OWN POWERS!
WAY TO GO, DEWA! SO YOU USED THE BARRIER TO REFLECT THE MEDUSA'S RAYS BACK ON HER!?
HUH!?
WHAT HAPPENED, DEWA!?

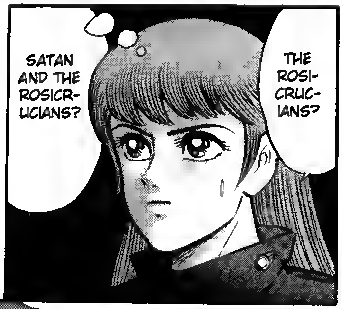
!DEWA?!

ヒュオオ
カアアアー
DEWA!!

AMON!? YOU MEAN TO BETRAY US NOW!?
EVEN THOUGH FROM NOW ON THE KOUJIN GROUP WILL RULE THE WORLD!?
THINK TWICE, AMON!
SATAN IS RIGHT!
THAT'S RIGHT, AMON!
SATAN'S RIGHT AND HE IS LOOKING TOWARDS OUR FUTURE!!
WELL, I DO WONDER 'BOUT THAT!
SATAN IS JUST LOOKING AFTER HIS OWN FUTURE! HERE'S MERELY USING ALL YOU GUYS!
THE KOUJIN GROUP IS BEING MANIPULATED BY SATAN AND A FOREIGN POWER!!

THE FRATERNITY OF THE ROSE CROSS!


THE FOREIGN SNAKES ARE PLANNING TO USE JAPAN AS A PUPPET?


SATAN AND THE ROSICRUCIANS?
THE ROSICRUCIANS?

SEEMS LIKE YOUR MIND IS MADE UP RIGHT, AMON?
AH, WELL.
SO YOU WENT AND TOLD THE ENEMY ABOUT THAT?

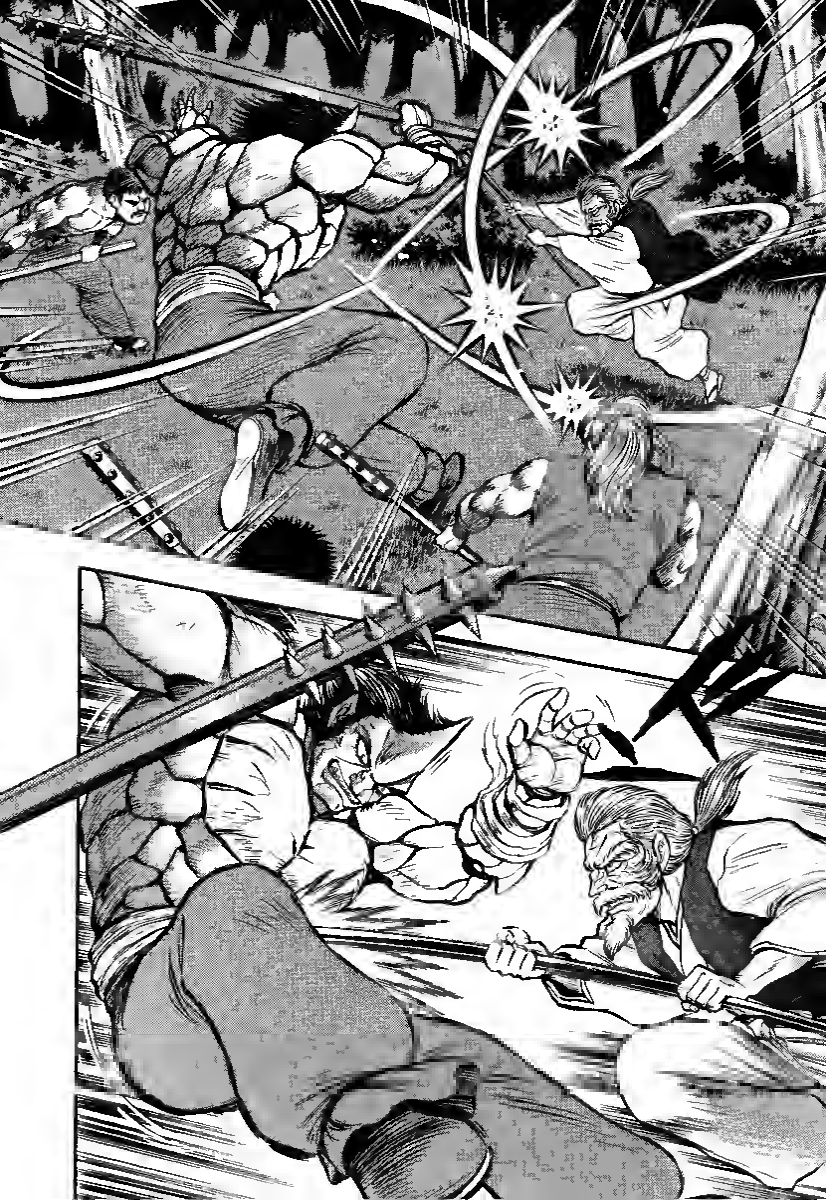
WHAT.!?
THIS IS BEYOND EXPECTATIONS. WE WILL NOT BE FIGHTING AMON TODAY
I DISLIKE VEERING OFF SCHEDULE!
WE HAVE THEM CORNERED!?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, SATAN!?
COMRADES, WE ARE LEAVING!
WE'LL LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT CHANCE!
WE HAVE NOT MADE ANY PREPARATIONS FOR FIGHTING AMON!!
WE'VE ACHIEVED OUR MAIN GOAL!

WE HAVE A CHANCE TO DESTROY ALL THE DOGS AT ONCE!
BUT AMON IS JUST ONE GUY! WHY!?
STOP! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU ARE UP AGAINST!!

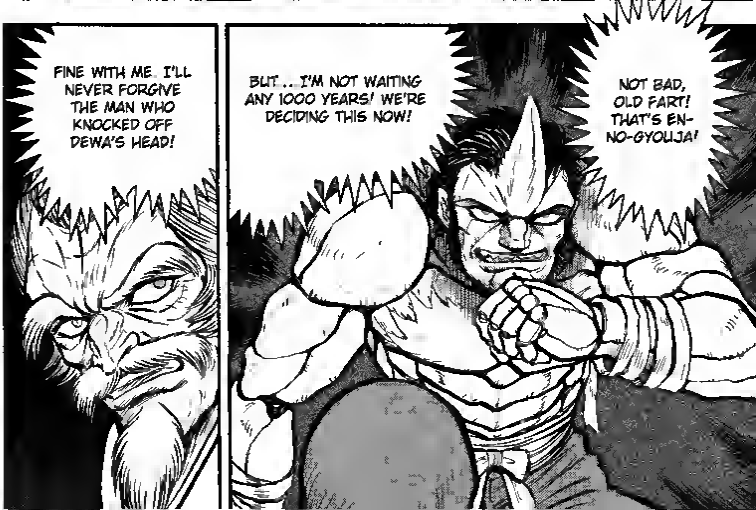
ドドドドドド
ピキ

DEWA ..
DEWAAAAAAA!

ぶん!



COME BACK AFTER 1000 YEARS WITH YOUR FACE CLEAN AND TRY AGAIN!
IMBECILE!! I'VE BEEN CALLED THE GREAT BODHISATTVA OF MIRACLES. I'M EN-NO-GYOUJA. YOU ARE NOWHERE NEAR READY TO CHALLENGE ME!


FINE WITH ME. I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THE MAN WHO KNOCKED OFF DEWA'S HEAD!
BUT... I'M NOT WAITING ANY 1000 YEARS! WE'RE DECIDING THIS NOW!
NOT BAD, OLD FART! THAT'S EN-NO-GYOUJA!

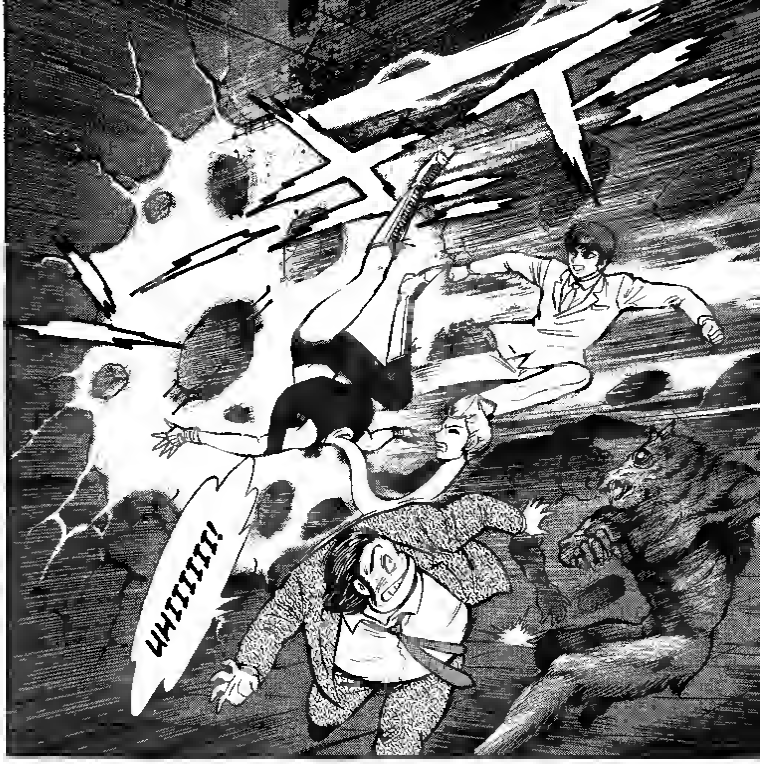
THIS TIME... THERE WILL BE NO HOLDING BACK!
KAIMU...

ヒュッ

THIS IS ODD... MY BODY IS. . BECOMING NUMB!
!?

I THOUGHT THEY MISSED ME....DID I NOT FULLY ESCAPE....!?
THE MEDUSA! IS IT THE MEDUSA'S RAYS OF PETRIFICATION!?

THE TRANSFORMATION HAS BEGUN AT A LEVEL DEEPER THAN THE CELLS OF MY BODY.
AM I.. TURNING TO STONE?
ゴオオオ


WHIIIIII!

WH-
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT!?

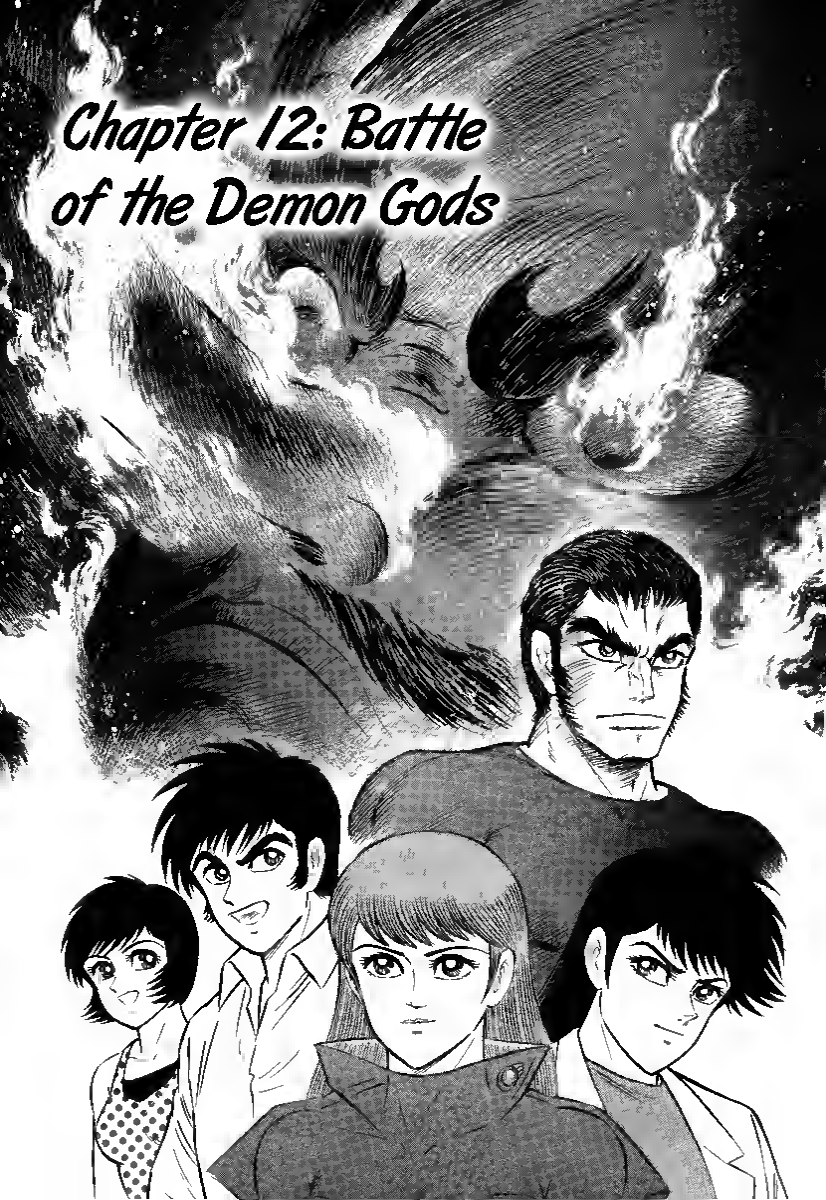
ガンガン
ガンガン

FOOL!
SATAN!?
I CAN'T STOP SHAKING!
I HAD NO CLUE HE WAS SUCH A MONSTER!
IF YOU'RE GONNA RUN AWAY LIKE A CHICKEN-SHIT, DON'T CHALLENGE AMON IN THE FIRST PLACE!
LET'S SCRAM!
MORE IMPORT-ANTLY... QUICK!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT GUY!?
ブォォォ
ブォォォ

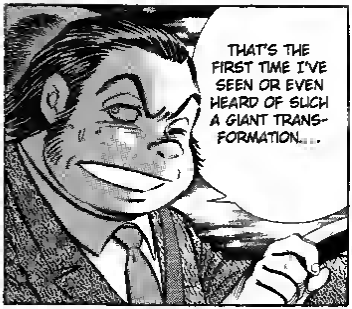
AMON IS...

MORE THAN A HUMAN OR A MONSTER... MORE LIKE A GOD!
WHAT THEY CALL A DEMON GOD!

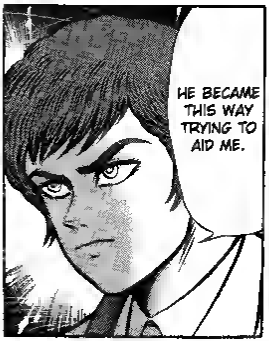
Chapter 12: Battle of the Demon Gods



DEMON GOD!?
NEAR GODLIKE!?


THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN OR EVEN HEARD OF SUCH A GIANT TRANS-FORMATION....

IT'S NOT HARD TO BELIEVE
SINCE AMON CAN TAKE THIS FORM


HE BECAME THIS WAY TRYING TO AID ME.

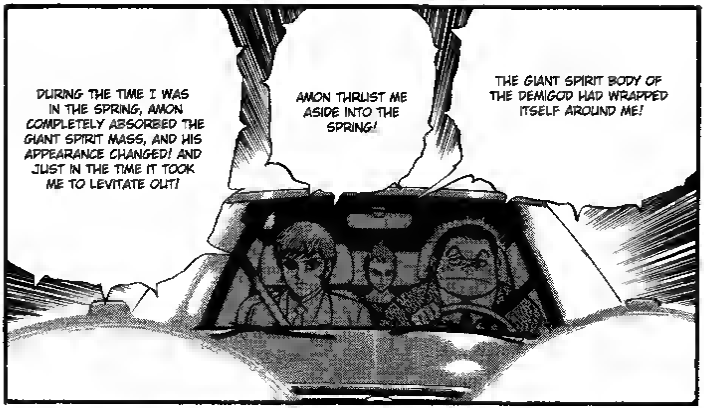
THAT GUY, AMON...

AMON AND I WERE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL. WE WERE ON A TRIP LOOKING FOR MAGATSUHI WITH OTHER BUDDIES FROM THE KOUJIN GROUP...
IT WAS OVER A DECADE AGO
ALL OF US ALREADY HAD THE POWERS WE WERE BORN WITH, OF COURSE... BUT WE WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THEM.
WE HAD HEARD THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE KOUJIN GROUP HAD MELDED WITH MAGATSUHI TO GAIN SUPERHUMAN POWERS.
WE WERE IN A HURRY TO FULFILL OUR DREAMS OF BECOMING SUPERMEN. THERE WAS AN OLD DOCUMENT HANDED DOWN IN MY FAMILY THAT DESCRIBED MAGATSUHI SEALED OFF BY EN-NO-GYOU-JA. RELYING ON THAT DOCUMENT, WE WERE TRAVELING IN ORDER FIND AND RELEASE THE MAGATSUHI.....

SATAN, ISN'T THERE SOME KIND OF MISTAKE?
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY CAVE LIKE THAT ON THIS MOUNTAIN
MY ANCESTORS' SPECIALTY WAS SEARCHING MOUNTAINS, AMON
IT'S IN THE DOCUMENT THEY LEFT, SO THERE'S NO MISTAKE!
THERE'S A CAVE WITH AN UNDERGROUND SPRING AROUND HERE WHERE EN-NO-GYOUJA SEALED OFF A MALEVOLENT DEMIGOD
THE ENTRANCE IS SMALL AN INCONSPICUOUS, BUT IF YOU CAN MANAGE TO SLIP INTO IT, THE CAVE INSIDE IS SPACIOUS AND DEEP IT SAYS THAT INSIDE THE CAVE IS A SMALL SPRING
LET'S CAMP AROUND HERE AND SEARCH METHOD-ICALLY!
THE LEGEND OF EN-NO-GYOUJA AND MY FAMILY'S ACCOUNT MATCH UP EXACTLY!
YOU SAY METHODICALLY, BUT WE ONLY HAVE THREE DAYS WORTH OF FOOD!
LET'S FIND IT IN THREE DAYS!

I CAN'T SAY WHETHER LUCK WAS WITH US OR AGAINST US, BUT AS IF WE WERE BEING GUIDED WE FOUND THE CAVE THAT VERY DAY.
HERE'S THE SPRING!
A SPRING THAT NEVER SEES THE LIGHT OF DAY IS CALLED A "YOMI." BUT THE KANJI USED TO WRITE IT ARE THE SAME AS IN THE WORD "UNDERWORLD."
[illegible] TIMES THE PRONUNCIATION CHANGES TO "YAMI" WHICH MEANS "DARKNESS."
IT'S TRULY A DARK SPRING

AND INDEED, AT THE BACK OF THE SPRING WAS AN ANCIENT STONE HOKORA
AND IT WAS A MALVEOLENT DEMIGOD'S HOKORA!
EXACTLY!
BUT IF WE HAD NOT FOUND IT, WE WOULD NOT HAVE ENCOUNTERED THAT HORROR.
SO THE LEGENDS OF EN-NO-GYOUJA WERE TRUE?
AND NEITHER I NOR AMON WOULD BE THE MEN WE ARE THIS DAY...
WE MIGHT HAVE LIVED SIMPLE, HAPPY LIVES—BUT WE DESTROYED THE HOKORA! WE DISPELLED THE SEAL!


DURING THE TIME I WAS IN THE SPRING, AMON COMPLETELY ABSORBED THE GIANT SPIRIT MASS, AND HIS APPEARANCE CHANGED! AND JUST IN THE TIME IT TOOK ME TO LEVITATE OUT!
AMON THRUST ME ASIDE INTO THE SPRING!
THE GIANT SPIRIT BODY OF THE DEMIGOD HAD WRAPPED ITSELF AROUND ME!

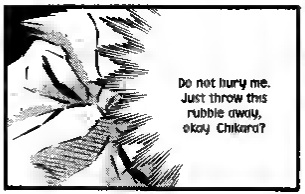
HE HAD THE SINISTER APPEARANCE OF A DEMIGOD WOLF!!
HE WAS NOW THE DEMON GOD AMON!

ONLY AMON WAS DIFFERENT
ALL WERE BEREFT OF THEIR HUMANITY. THEY TRIED TO ATTACK AND EAT ME!
AND THE OTHERS WHO WERE CHANGED?
AT THAT TIME, HE SEEMED TO ME A GUARDIAN ANGEL!
ONE BY ONE HE FINISHED OFF THE ONES WHO HAD BECOME PURE MONSTERS!
HE PROTECTED ME THEN
AMON FAILED TO COMPREHEND MY MAGNIFICENT DREAM.
I THOUGHT HE WOULD FOLLOW WHEREVER I LED.
I NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD COME AND BETRAY US

NOT TO WORRY.
BUT IF THAT POWERFUL A DEMIGOD IS NOW OUR ENEMY, WE CAN'T REALLY TAKE ON THE HOUNDS, RIGHT...?
THE ONLY THING THAT CAN FIGHT A DEMIGOD IS ANOTHER DEMIGOD!
THE SOLE PROBLEM IS AMON!
IF THEY DO US THE FAVOR OF COMING AFTER US, WE'LL TURN THE TABLES AND FINISH THEM OFF.
THE HOUNDS ARE NO LONGER CAPABLE OF ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT
THE ROSICRUCIANS LED BY CHRISTIAN ROSENKREUZ WILL DEFEAT AMON DEVILWOLF!!
THE SEVEN DEMIGODS OF THE FRATERNITY OF THE ROSE CROSS!!

"Slow Time" is in effect! We will arrive at Katsuragi Mountain where the Chairman was headed, in a few minutes!
If you fall out of the barrier, you'll return to the normal flow of time!
Stay within five meters of my bike!

Possibly..
Why would the Chairman have gone to Katsuragi Mountain...
Because he felt danger there...they likely intended to resurrect Zenki and Goki.
Zenki!? Goki!? The pair of demons that En-no-Gyouja bound?
The Chairman was the real En-no-Gyou-ja?


Do not hurry me. Just throw this rubble away, okay Chikara?

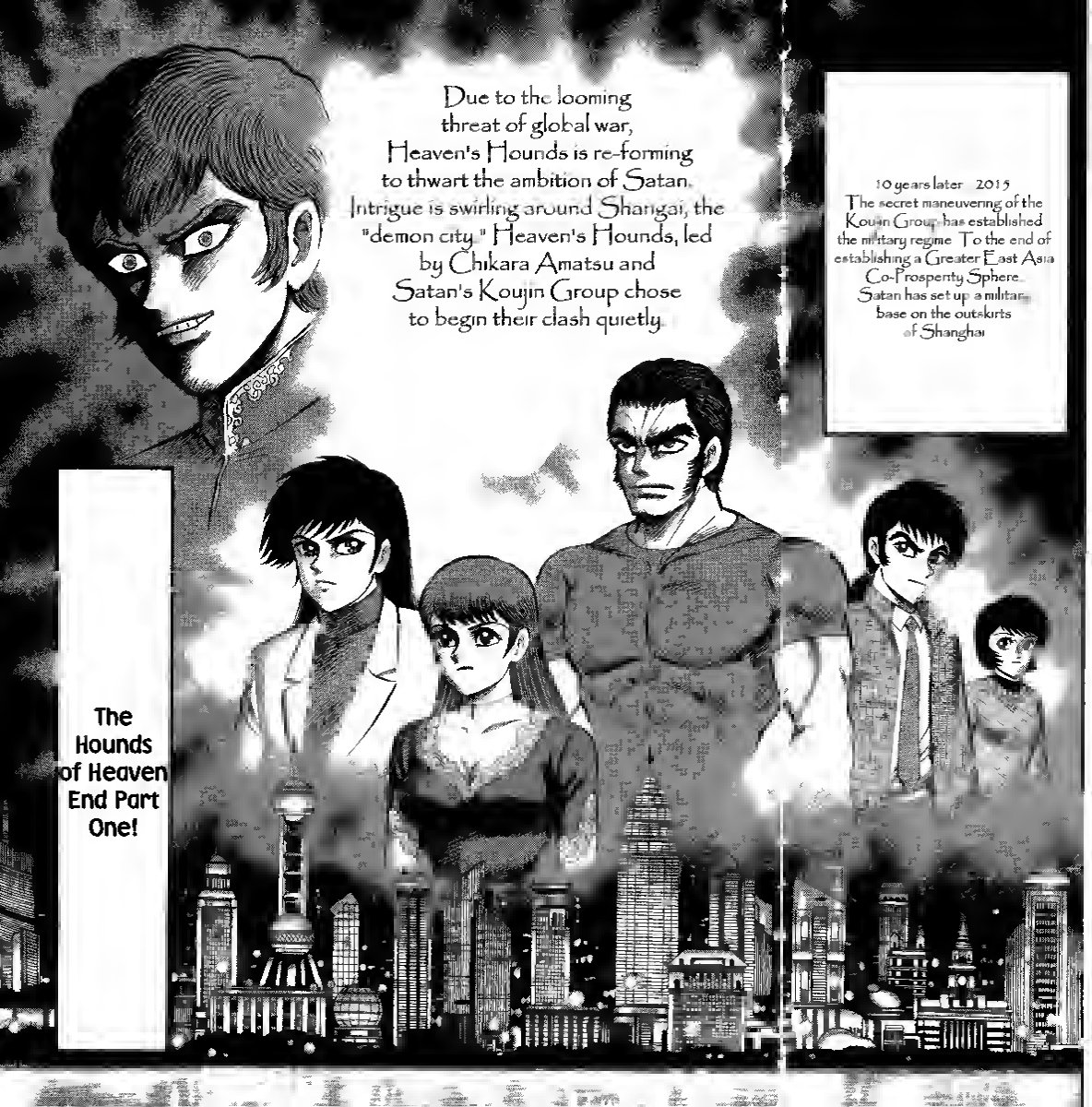
I am the Immortal Pilgrim turned to stone.
One day, without fail, I shall be reborn

I... understand!

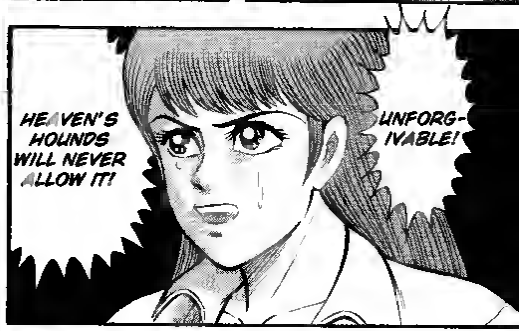
Don't worry, Old man Ozunu! We'll be awaiting your return!
Amon...you are now the chief Tengu! Please protect everyone in my stead!

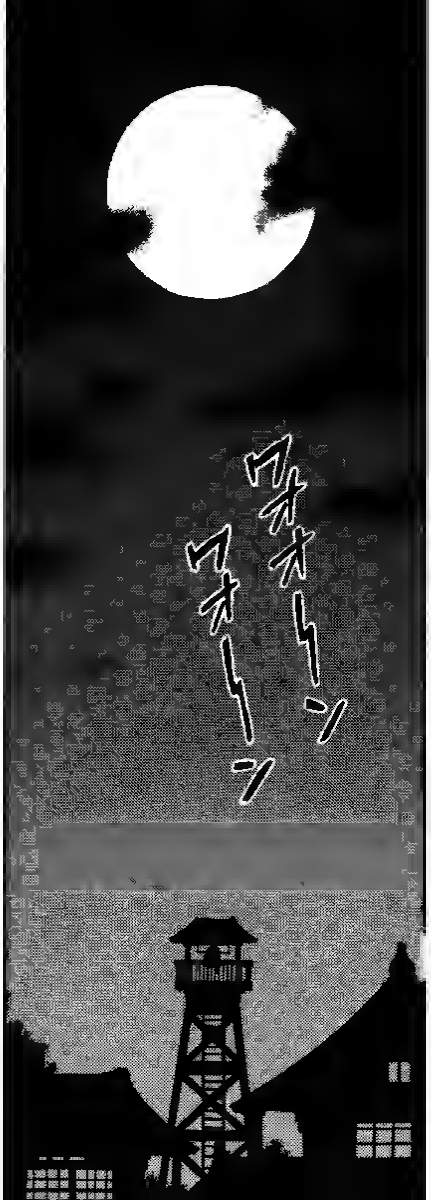
Chikara, Aoi, Shinpei, Ran. Match your strength to Amon and crush Satan's ambition!!

AMON? SATAN'S AMBITION?
FATHER!
ゴゴゴ
HE PLANS TO RESTORE THE JAPANESE MILITARY AS IT WAS BEFORE THE 2ND WORLD WAR.
SATAN PLANS TO ESTABLISH A MILITARY REGIME!
FROM THERE HE WILL ESTABLISH A GREATER EAST ASIA CO-PROSPERITY SPHERE, AND USING THAT AS A PLATFORM HE PLANS TO CONQUER THE WORLD!!
NO! AN EVEN MORE POWERFUL MILITARY THAN THOSE DAYS!


Due to the looming threat of global war, Heaven's Hounds is re-forming to thwart the ambition of Satan. Intrigue is swirling around Shangai, the "demon city." Heaven's Hounds, led by Chikara Amatsu and Satan's Koujin Group chose to begin their clash quietly.
10 years later 2015
The secret maneuvering of the Koujin Group has established the military regime To the end of establishing a Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. Satan has set up a military base on the outskirts of Shanghai
The Hounds of Heaven End Part One!

IF ANYONE CAN, IT'S SATAN!
THAT'S INSANE. COULD HE REALLY PULL IT OFF!?


HEAVEN'S HOUNDS WILL NEVER ALLOW IT!
UNFORG-IVABLE!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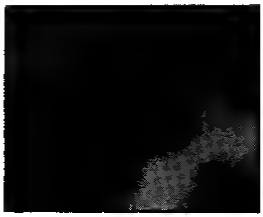

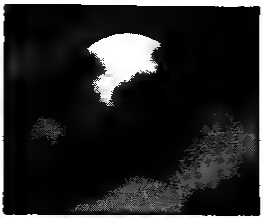

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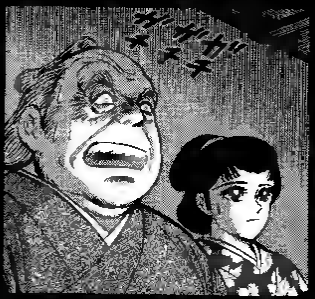
Chapter 12: A
Darkness in Edo

I'M SORRY TO KEEP YOU OUT SO LATE, JII.
WATCH YOUR STEP, LADY CHIKA.
IT'S MUDDY FROM THE RAINS. EARLIER TODAY.
I WASN'T CAREFUL. I APOLOGIZE
I JUST COULD NOT LEAVE
THE DAYS HAVE GOTTEN SHORTER, SO IF YOU AREN'T CAREFUL YOU CAN GET CAUGHT OUT AFTER DARK.
SOMEONE IS COMING.
HUH!?
WHEN I SAW LORD SHINNOSUKE'S DOJO, IT WAS SO FASCINATING

!?
WHA...


ヂヂカ!!
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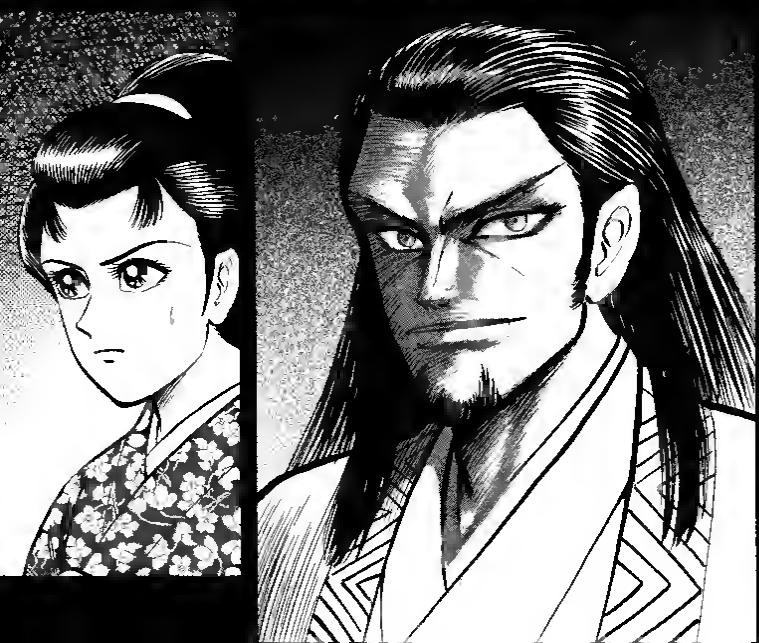
A CRUC-IFIX!
WH..WHAT WAS... THAT?
THEY'RE... DISAPP-EARING...



March 21, 1650
Yagyu no sho Present day Nara City.
MASTER, WHY DID YOU RESIGN AS SWORD-TUTOR OF THE SHOGUN....?
ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, YOU, LORD JUBEI ARE MORE QUALIFIED THAN YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER, LORD MUNEFUYU!
INDEED, INDEED!

NO!
INDEED, INDEED!
I HAVE LEARNED THE YAGYU TECHNIQUE FROM JUST LORD JUBEI'S SWORD ALONE!
BUT EVEN SO...
IT IS A BLADE THAT CLEAVES THE LIVES OF MEN!
IT IS A BLADE FOR COMBAT!
MY SWORD IS NOT THE BLADE OF A TEACHER!
IT HAS CLEAVED TOO MANY!

I AM HANBEI KONAI! I USE THE SHORT SWORD!
I GATHER THAT YOU ARE LORD JUBEI YAGYU! I AM CHUYA MARUBASHI, FROM OCHANOMIZU IN EDO, AND I HAVE TRAINED AT THE YARINO DOJO!
MY NAME IS SHOSETSU YUI!
I FOUNDED THE CHOUKOUDOU SCHOOL IN KANDA RENJAKUCHO, EDO, WHERE I TEACH THE KUSUNOKI TECHNIQUE.
IN EDO YOU HAVE SOME DUBIOUS MILITARY SCHOOL WHERE MORE THAN 3000 RONIN HAVE GATHERED AS DISCIPLES.
I HAVE HEARD OF SHOSETSU YUI.

TO DO BATTLE!
WHAT DOES THIS SHOSETSU YUI WANT WITH ME?
WE WILL HANDLE THEM!
MASTER, WE CANNOT FORGIVE THESE CHURLS!
YOU WOULD SULLY THE PEERLESS YAGYU BLADE!?
WHAT !?

LORD JUBEI, THE TRAINING OF YOUR DISCIPLES SEEMS TO BE LACKING—OR COULD IT BE
YOUR TECHNIQUES ARE HIGH LEVEL IN NAME ALONE!?

MY TURN!

Y...YOU!?

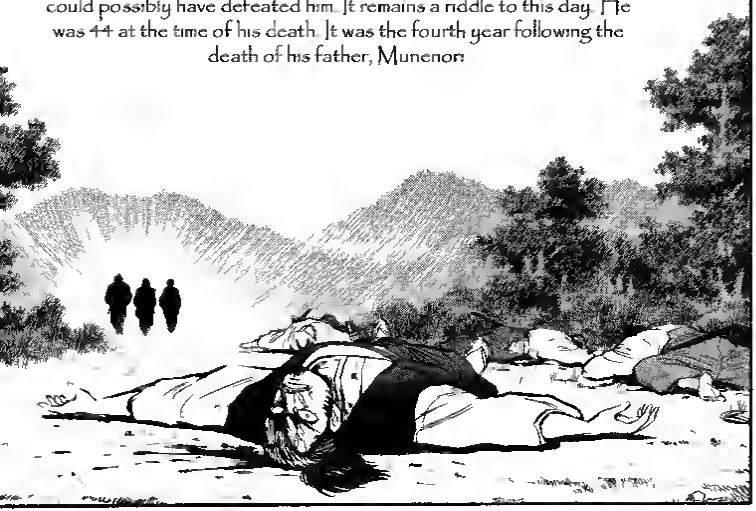
SHIRO TOKISADA AMAKUSA!

DIDN'T I...KILL YOU... ONCE...
IN THE SHIMA-BARA REBE-LLION ...
DIDN'T I...?

HEHE...
LORD JUBEI YAGYU. I LEARNED HOW TO DEAL WITH YOUR TECHNIQUE IN OUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER!

AMAZING, THAT JUBEI YAGYU!
I WATCHED VERY CAREFULLY WHERE YOU AIMED AND PUT PROTECTION THERE!
MY HOUZOUIN TECHNIQUE OF SPEARMANSHIP WAS COMPLETELY CRUSHED
IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO WARD HIM OFF!

March 21, 1650
Lord Jubei Mitsutoshi Yagyu, sword-tutor of the Shogun, oldest son of Munenon Yagyu. Said to be the greatest swordsman that ever lived, Yagyu was cut down at Yagyu-no-sho by a number of men and killed. When his body was discovered, men asked who could possibly have defeated him. It remains a riddle to this day. He was 44 at the time of his death. It was the fourth year following the death of his father, Munenon



SIGN: TENDO RYU AOI DOJO
天道流蒼道場
FARDON ME...
I ENTERED WITHOUT ASKING...
CALLIGRAPHY: HEAVEN
天

AH, YOU CAUGHT ME?
COME TO LEARN THE SWORD?
THE PRINCESS OF HOUSE OZUMI ARRIVES DRESSED AS A SOLDIER. LADY CHIKA?
I SEE.
THIS SEEMED SAFER...
LATELY, THE STREETS OF EDO ARE NOT SAFE...
Chika. Later, Chikara Amatsu.
ALL THE RONIN SEEMING TO BE FLOWING INTO EDO.
Shinnosuke Aoi. Later, Aoi Katsuragi.
THAT'S RIGHT.

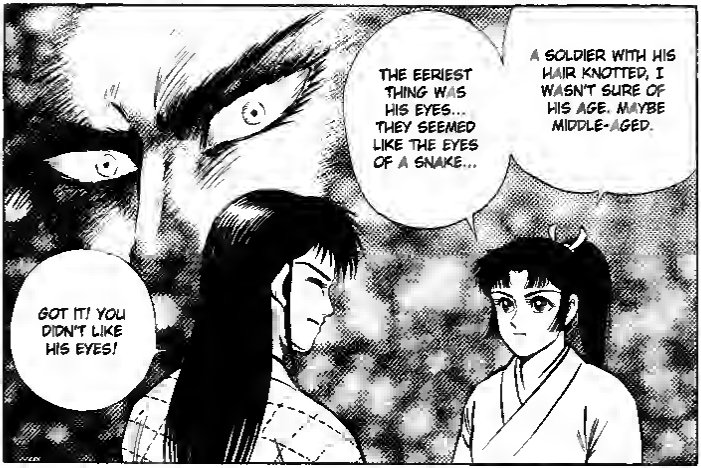
SAMURAI JUST CAN'T DO ANYTHING ELSE, I SUPPOSE
RONIN THINK THAT IF THEY COME TO EDO, THEY WILL FIND EMPLOYMENT AS A SAMURAI
SINCE SEKIGAHARA, WITH THE 3RD TOKUGAWA SHOGUN AND THE CONTINUING RERANKING OF THE DAIMYO,* A LOT OF THE OUTSIDER CLANS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. WE'RE BRIMMING OVER WITH RONIN.
* TERRITORY CONFISCATION
WITHOUT WAR, THERE IS NO NEED FOR A SAMURAI SWORD...
HAHA HA!
THE OTHER DAY I SAW A GUY WHO HAD BEEN A CARPENTER WALKING AROUND SELLING FISH....
THE TOWNS FOLK JUST DO AS THEY PLEASE...
IT'S TRUE THAT I CAN SKIP OVER TIME, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN PREDICT THE FUTURE!
WHO KNOWS?
LADY CHIKA, AS THE "TIME-SKIPPING TENGU," HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THE WORLD OF SAMURAI WILL LAST?

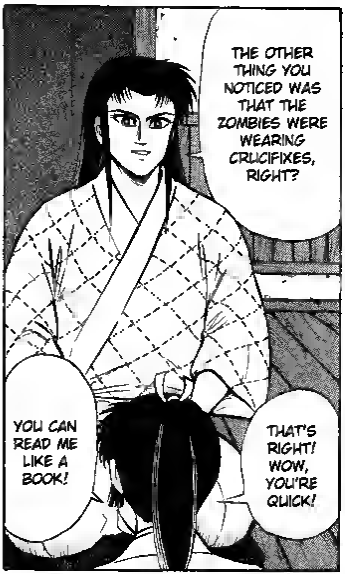
BEING A TENGU WITH SPECIAL POWERS, IN MY CASE THAT IS NOT THAT UNUSUAL...
TODAY I CAME ABOUT SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED ABOUT A YEAR AGO... ON THE WAY HOME FROM HERE I SAW A TROOP OF ZOMBIES

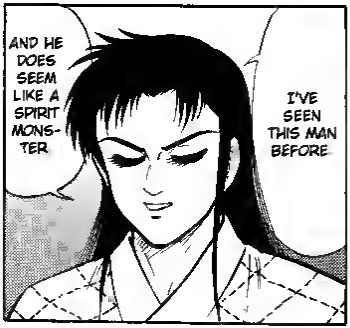
IF IT MADE YOU AFRAID, IT MUST BE BAD...
HO
THAT IS, I FELT LIKE HE WAS RATHER DANGEROUS.
BUT A STRANGE APPARITION APPEARED WITH THEM...

AND VERY SUSPICIOUS!
HE WAS A SPIRIT MONSTER!

HE WAS DIFFERENT THAN US
YOU SURE IT WASN'T A PERSON? YOU KNOW... LIKE US...?


A SOLDIER WITH HIS HAIR KNOTTED, I WASN'T SURE OF HIS AGE. MAYBE MIDDLE-AGED.
THE EERIEST THING WAS HIS EYES... THEY SEEMED LIKE THE EYES OF A SNAKE...
GOT IT! YOU DIDN'T LIKE HIS EYES!


THE OTHER THING YOU NOTICED WAS THAT THE ZOMBIES WERE WEARING CRUCIFIXES, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT! WOW, YOU'RE QUICK!
YOU CAN READ ME LIKE A BOOK!


I'VE SEEN THIS MAN BEFORE
AND HE DOES SEEM LIKE A SPIRIT MONSTER

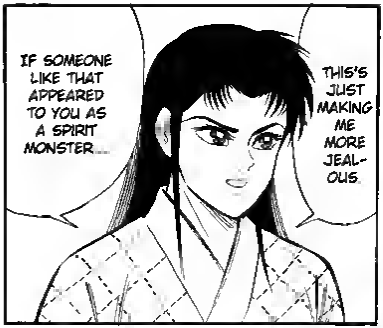
OH, IT MAKES ME HAPPY YOU UNDERSTAND ME SO WELL

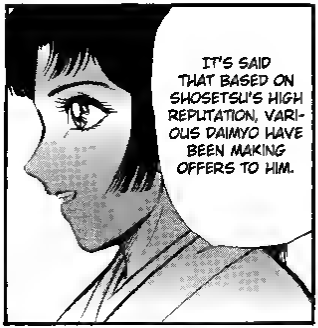
CHRISTIANS
THE ZOMBIES WERE VICTIMS OF THE SHIMABARA REBELLION.
YES. THAT'S HOW IT APPEARED.

I FELT LIKE THE ZOMBIES WERE TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT THE MAN
AND THEN, JUST RECENTLY, I FOUND OUT WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS.

THAT WAS A WHILE BACK.
MORE THAN TEN YEARS AGO...
THIRTEEN YEARS TO BE EXACT, ALTHOUGH FOR ME AS A TIME SKIPPER IT JUST HAPPENED RECENTLY.

IT'S TRUE THERE'S NEVER ANYONE HERE WHEN I COME.
HAHA HAHA!
APPARENTLY I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR TEACHING.
HE HAS OVER THREE THOUSAND DISCIPLES IF YOU CAN BELIEVE IT!
IN KANDA THERE IS A MAN NAMED SHOSETSU YUI WHO HAS A MILITARY SCHOOL WHERE HE TEACHES KUSUNOKI TECHNIQUE.
THREE THOUSAND!? THAT'S AMAZING. I SUDDENLY WANT TO CLOSE THIS DOJO!
BUT MY FATHER LEFT IT TO ME!
IT SEEMS A LOT OF THE RONIN COMING TO EDO ARE GATHERING AT SHOSETSU'S PLACE.
OF COURSE, IT ISN'T JUST RONIN. THERE ARE ALSO HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS NOW


IF SOMEONE LIKE THAT APPEARED TO YOU AS A SPIRIT MONSTER...
THIS'S JUST MAKING ME MORE JEALOUS.


IT'S SAID THAT BASED ON SHOSETSU'S HIGH REPUTATION, VARIOUS DAIMYO HAVE BEEN MAKING OFFERS TO HIM.

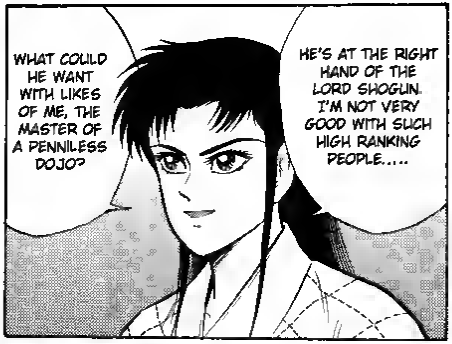
HE WOUND UP INHERITING THE ENTIRE DOJO
HIS MASTER WAS FUDEN KUSUNOKI, A DESCENDANT OF MASASHIGE KUSUNOKI. SHOSETSU ENTERED THE SCHOOL, BECAME THE STAR PUPIL AND EVEN MARRIED THE MASTER'S DAUGHTER .

ONE IS THAT HE ACQUIRED THE MILITARY SCHOOL BY KILLING HIS MASTER AND STEALING IT.
WHEN I QUESTIONED SOME OF HIS SUBORDINATES, I HEARD A LOT OF BAD RUMORS AS WELL.

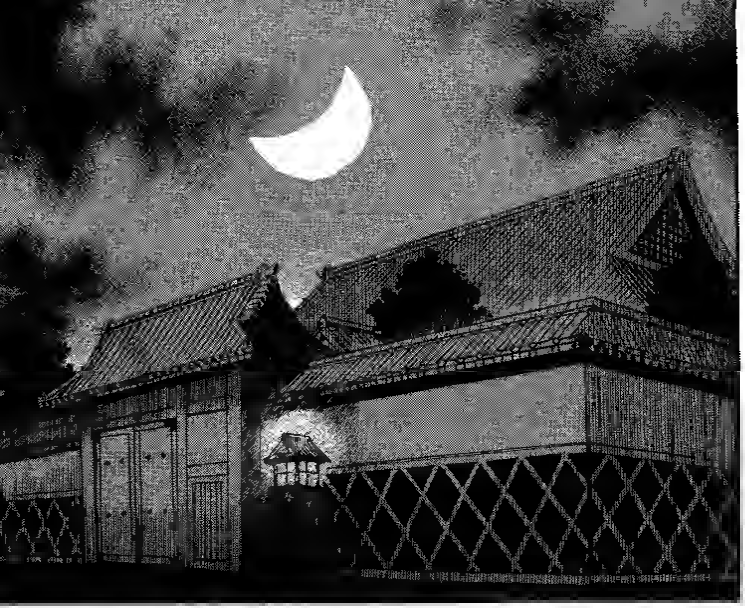
THAT'S RIGHT! ALTHOUGH HE'S MY ADOPTIVE FATHER.
YES
HAVEN'T I HEARD THAT YOUR FATHER IS TENDO OZUMI, STEWARD TO THE SHOGUN?

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO MEET MY FATHER?
SO I CAME TO ASK A FAVOR.

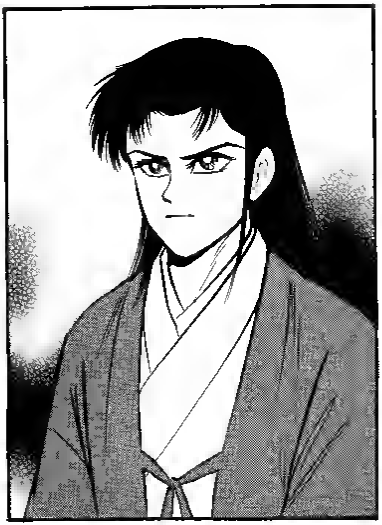
PLEASE JOIN ME AS A GHOST BUSTER!


WHAT COULD HE WANT WITH LIKES OF ME, THE MASTER OF A PENNILESS DOJO?
HE'S AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE LORD SHOGUN. I'M NOT VERY GOOD WITH SUCH HIGH RANKING PEOPLE.....

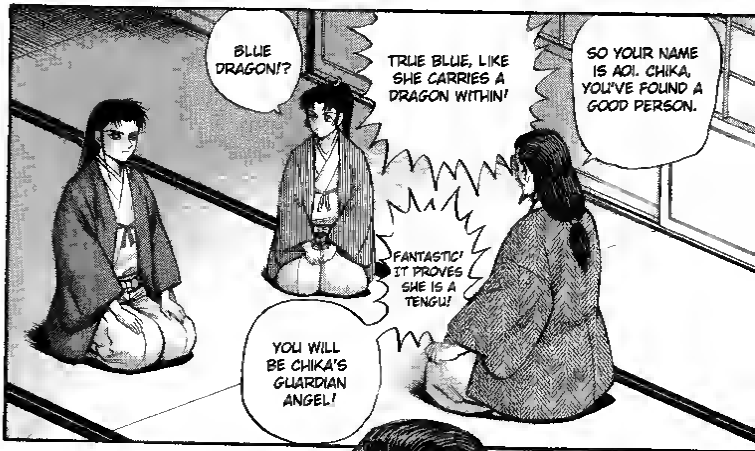
I DON'T TRUST MYSELF ALONE.. SO WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO HELP US



FATHER, YOU ARE BEING RUDE. DON'T USE SUCH PIERCING EYES AT A FIRST INTERVIEW.



DRAGON?
IT SEEMED LIKE I SUDDENLY SAW A DRAGON!
OH, PARDON ME!


BLUE DRAGON!?
TRUE BLUE, LIKE SHE CARRIES A DRAGON WITHIN!
SO YOUR NAME IS AOI. CHIKA, YOU'VE FOUND A GOOD PERSON.
FANTASTIC! IT PROVES SHE IS A TENGU!
YOU WILL BE CHIKA'S GUARDIAN ANGEL!

AH, YES IT IS SAID YOU ARE THE STEWARD TO THE LORD SHOGUN
AH, PARDON ME I AM CALLED TENDO OZUMI.

PILGRIM!? YOU MEAN AS IN A FOLLOWER OF SHUGENDO?
I'M MORE A PILGRIM THAN A SOLDIER.
DOES IT NOT SEEM SO?

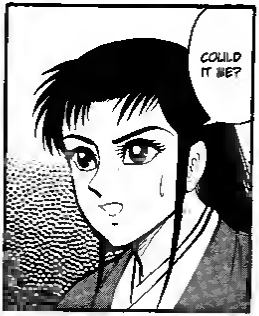
GOOD EVENING.
LORD, I APOLOGIZE THAT YOU HAD TO COME ALL THE WAY OVER TO MY HOUSE.

I DEAL WITH CERTAIN PARTICULAR MATTERS FOR THE SHOGUN
FOR THE PEACE OF THE WORLD, AS IT WERE

スッ
LORD HOSHINA HAS COME

OH NO. IT'S MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE HERE. MY HOUSE IS ALWAYS SO NOISY
UH-HUH. IS THIS THE PERSON? YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL YOU HARDLY SEEM LIKE A MAN
SO THIS IS THE ONE, CHIKA?
YES!
LORD HOSHINA!?

I AM MASAYUKI HOSHINA


COULD IT BE?

I AM HONORED
NO, NO. WE ARE NOT SO FORMAL IN THIS HOUSE.
SOCIAL STANDING MEANS NOTHING HERE!
BUT...
LORD AOI, IT'S FINE!
TRULY?
INDEED! THIS IS NOT THE HOME OF A PERSON!
BECAUSE IT IS THE HOME OF THE CHIEF TENGU, EN-NO-GYOUJA* WA HA HA HA!

* THE SORCERER FAMOUS FOR THE FOUNDING OF SHUGENDO

Masayuki Hoshina,
Aged 44
When Iemitsu became Shogun, he favored Hoshina with a position as close aide, and Hoshina excelled in this role. It could be said that he was the shadow Shogun.
Biological younger brother of the 3rd Shogun, Iemitsu. Because he was the son of a servant, he was sent to the Hoshina family for adoption.
AS ALL OF YOU KNOW, SHOGUN IEMITSU PASSED AWAY A FEW DAYS AGO
THE 4TH SHOUGUN PRINCE IETSUNA IS ONLY 11. I WILL BE TAKING UP THE ROLE OF HIS REGENT!
UNTIL THE 4TH SHOGUN IS OLD ENOUGH TO TAKE HIS PROPER PLACE, I HAVE TO HOLD TOGETHER THE PEACE OF THE WORLD....
NOW, AS FOR THE TURBULENCE IN THE STREETS OF EDO...
YES, IT IS A SIGN OF DANGER!

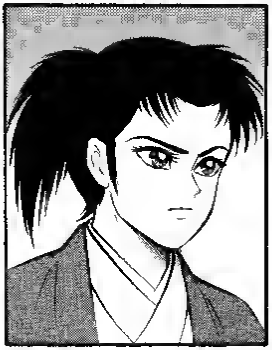
THIS YEAR IN APRIL, PRINCE IEMITSU HIMSELF IS GONE, AND THE TIMES ARE CHANGING DRASTICALLY.
LAST YEAR IN MARCH, JUBEI YAGYU, WITH WHOM PRINCE IEMITSU PASSED THE DAYS OF HIS YOUTH, WAS CUT DOWN BY A GROUP OF SEVERAL MEN.
WE'VE FINALLY MANAGED TO ACHIEVE PEACE. I DO NOT WISH TO SEE A RETURN TO THE CHAOS OF WARRING STATES!
I AM ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THESE CHRISTIAN ZOMBIES.
IN ADDITION TO ALL THAT, I FEEL THAT AN OCCULT POWER WITH A DARK COUNTENANCE IS FALLING AMONGST US.
WE NEED POWER!
...
THAT POWER YOU TENGU HAVE!
NOT FOR TOKUGAWA, BUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD!

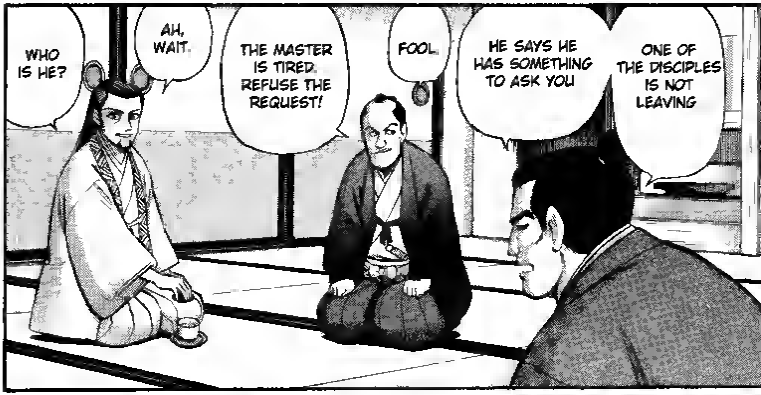
I FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME WAY!
THAT WAS SO INTERESTING IT MAKES ME WANNA GO INTO BATTLE!

Kanda Renjakucho Military Dojo Choukoudou
張孔堂

NEXT TIME WE WILL EXPLORE THE SECRETS OF THESE TACTICS IN MORE DETAIL.
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY!
AND THEY ARE FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO ADAPT TO THE NEEDS OF THE MOMENT.
THEY TAKE WEATHER AND TERRAIN COMPLETELY INTO ACCOUNT.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THE TACTICS OF MASASHIGE KUSUNOKI ARE SO EFFECTIVE THAT THE NUMBER OF TROOPS DO NOT MATTER.

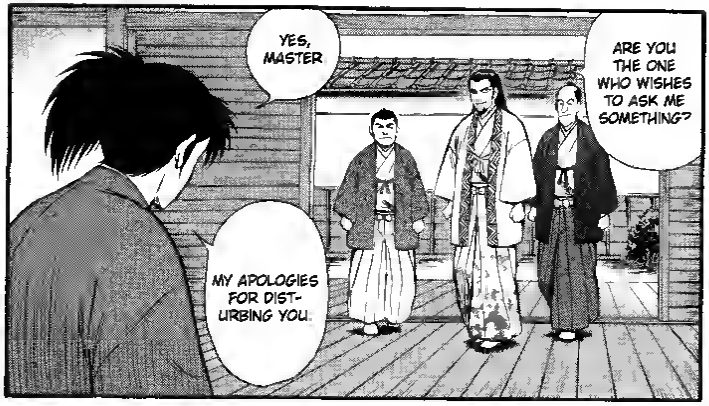
MASTER.




WHO IS HE?
AH, WAIT.
THE MASTER IS TIRED. REFUSE THE REQUEST!
FOOL.
HE SAYS HE HAS SOMETHING TO ASK YOU
ONE OF THE DISCIPLES IS NOT LEAVING

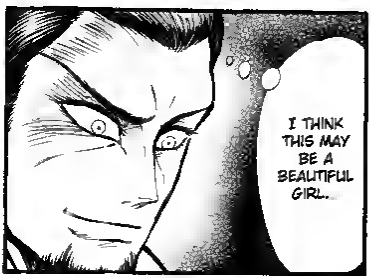
I SEE
LIKE SHIRO AMAKUSA WAS?

BUT HE IS SO LOVELY HE COULD BE MISTAKEN FOR A GIRL.
HE JUST STARTED A FEW DAYS AGO. A YOUNG MAN.


YES, MASTER
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO WISHES TO ASK ME SOMETHING?
MY APOLOGIES FOR DIST-URBING YOU.

AND YOU WISH TO KNOW .?
MAY WE SPEAK ALONE?
WHAT?

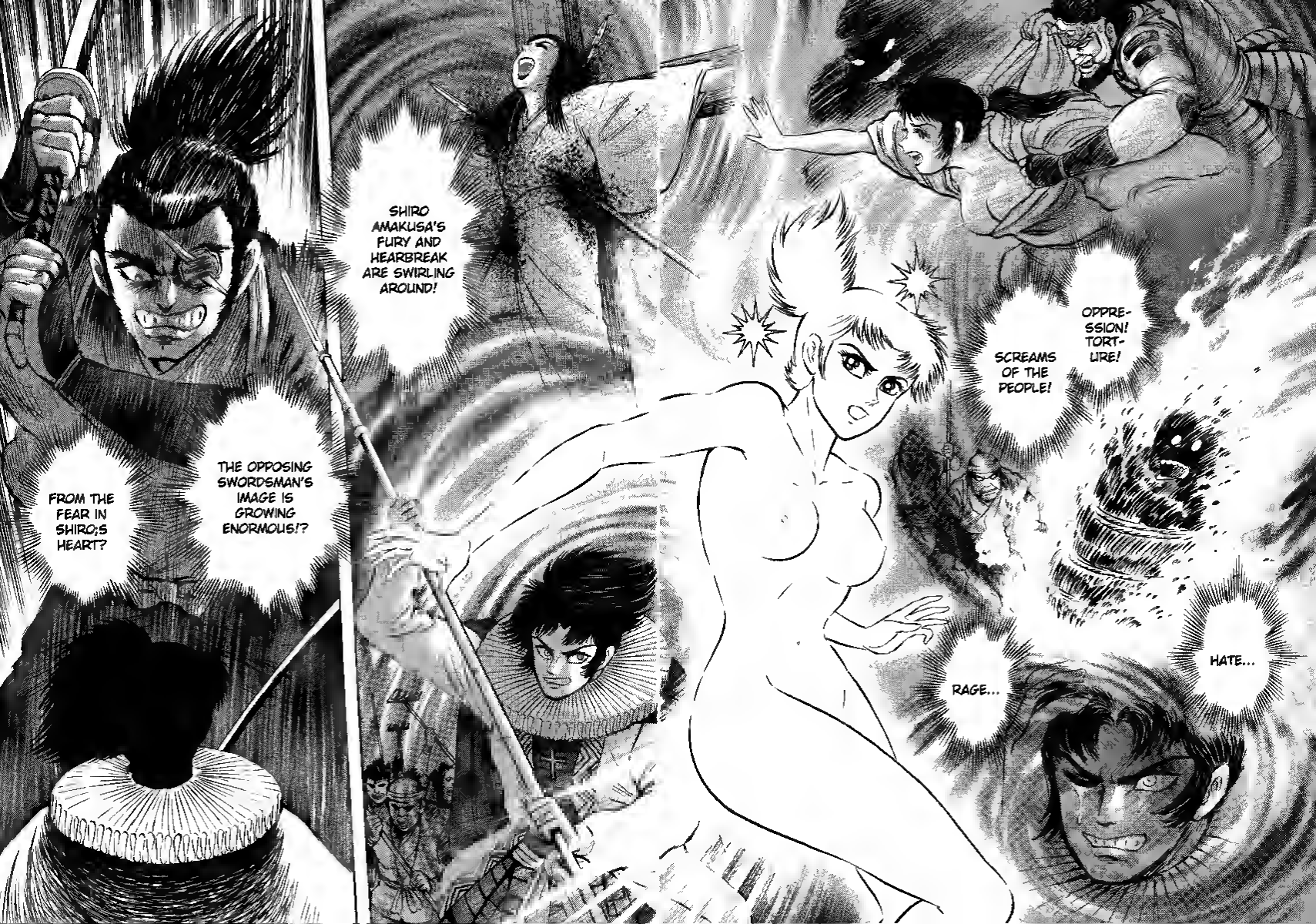
MY NAME IS SHIN-NOSUKE AOI


I THINK THIS MAY BE A BEAUTIFUL GIRL..

AS YOU WISH.
HMM. WELL... ALRIGHT EVERYONE OUT!
I HAVE A RATHER PERSONAL REQUEST.
RIGHT!
ALRIGHT. EVERYBODY IS OUT. YOUR REQUEST...?
THE OTHER DAY THIS PERSON...

WHAT?
YOU!? HOW DID YOU!?
POWER OF THE TENGU! PHOENIX PENETRATION!!
USING SLOW TIME!
AH...
ズゥゥン

SHOSETSU IS... SHIRO TOKISADA AMAKUSA!!
I'M IN! INSIDE THE MIND OF SHO-SETSU!
CAN YOU SEE, CHIKA !?
AH! WHAT IS THAT!?
THE SHIMA-BARA REBEL-LION!
A MEMORY OF THE FALL OF HARA CASTLE!


SHIRO AMAKUSA'S FURY AND HEARBREAK ARE SWIRLING AROUND!
THE OPPOSING SWORDSMAN'S IMAGE IS GROWING ENORMOUS!?
FROM THE FEAR IN SHIRO;S HEART?
OPPRE-SSION! TORT-URE!
SCREAMS OF THE PEOPLE!
HATE...
RAGE...

JUBEI!
BITTER-NESS!

SHIRO AMAKUSA WAS KILLED BY JUBEI YAGYU! IF SO, HOW!?
CUT DOWN!

MY GOD, MY GOD....WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME!?
IS THIS HELL, THIS HELL OF SHIMABARA THE ROAD TO PARADISE? NO, IT'S A LIE!!
IT'S A LIE!
I CAN'T DIE LIKE THIS!
IT'S A DEMON! A DEMON IS POSSESSING HIM!
AAA
ゴオオオオ

THIS THING IS NO LONGER SHIRO AMAKUSA. IT IS A SPIRIT MONSTER THAT POSSESSED HIM THROUGH HIS GRUDGE. HE'S A DEMON WITH NO REMAINING SHRED OF HUMANITY !!
ESCAPE, AOI! COME BACK TO YOUR BODY RIGHT NOW!
HURRY!

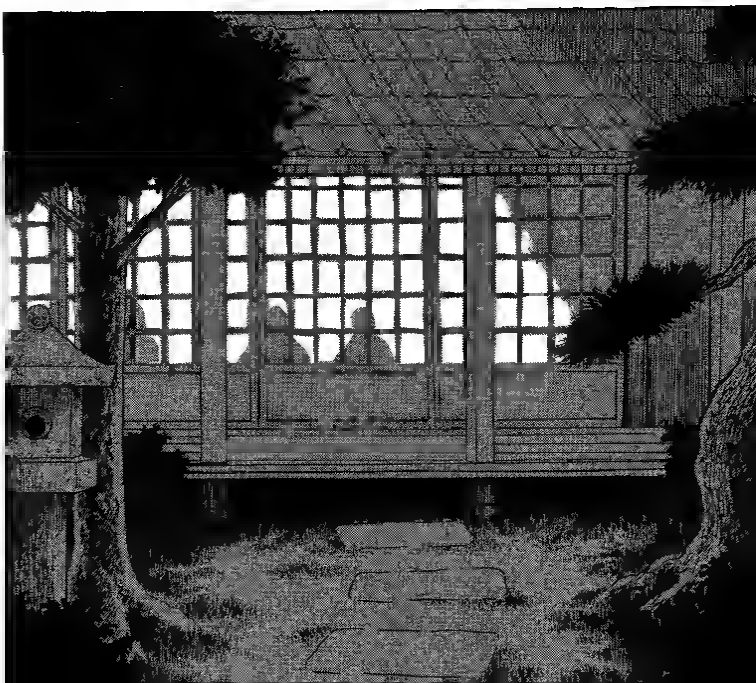
ダッ
ワ〜

A GIRL AFTER ALL!
SLOW TIME!

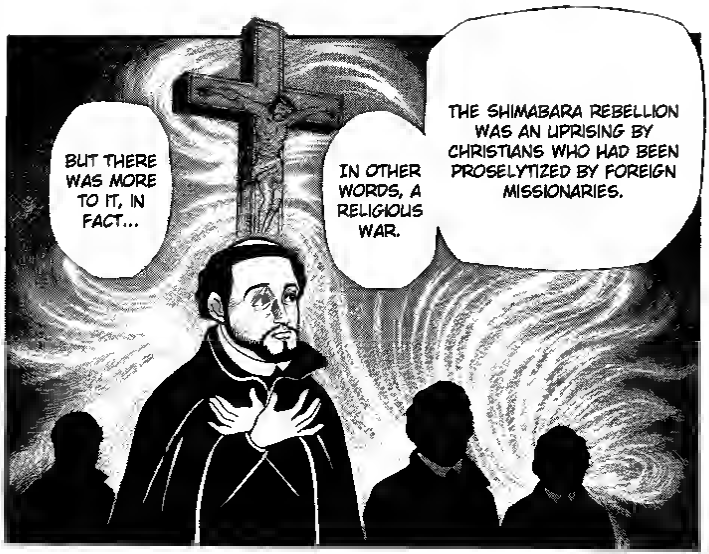
Chika Ozumi is the Tengu who can manipulate time. Her "Slow Time" power allows her to slow down the flow of time around her.
The only ones who can move at normal pace are she and anyone to whom she grants the ability.
To any other, it appears as if the two of them accelerate away!

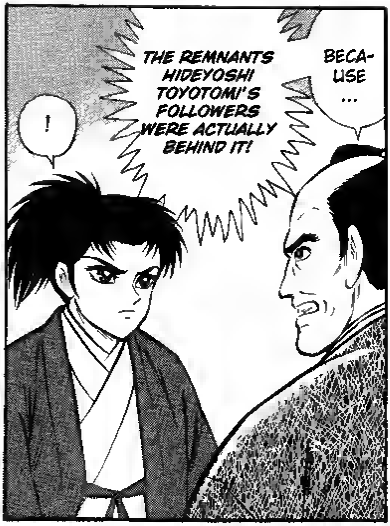
VAN-
ISHED?
BOTH
OF
THEM?

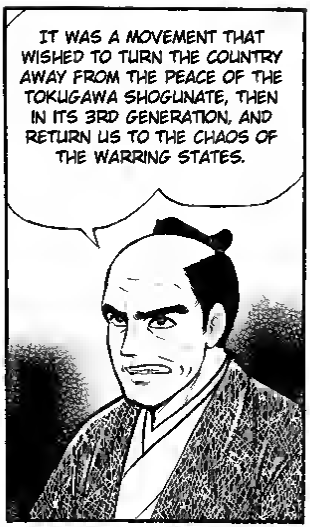
!?

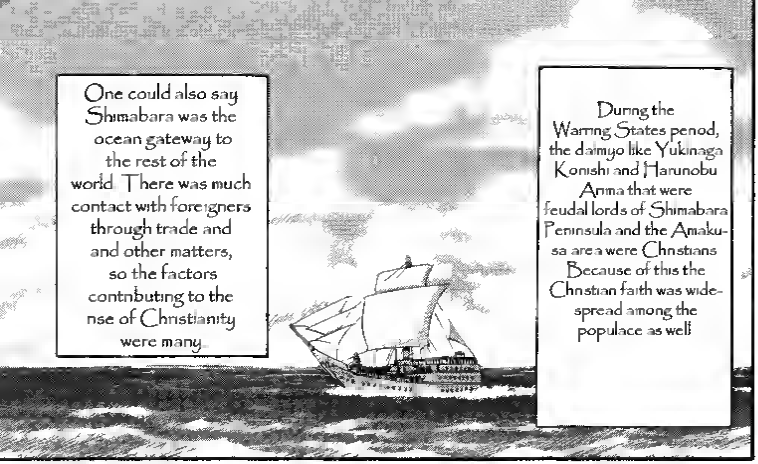


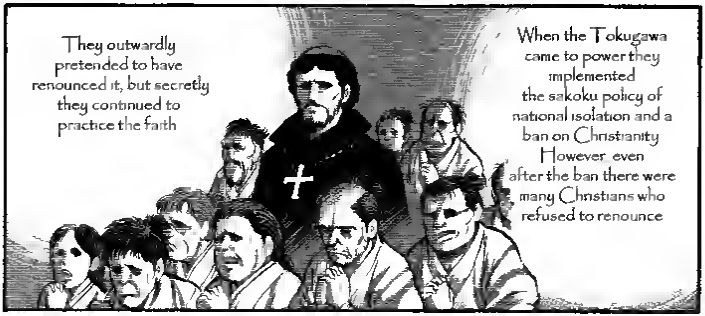
NOT EXACTLY THE SAME MAN!
SHOSETSU YUI AND SHIRO AMAKUSA ARE THE SAME PERSON!?
SHIRO AMAKUSA!?
A DEMON POSSESSED THE CORPSE OF SHIRO AMAKUSA AND BROUGHT IT BACK TO LIFE AS A SPIRIT MONSTER!
I HAVE A BOON TO ASK OF YOUR LORDSHIP.
HMM..
CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SHIMABARA REBELLION?


THE SHIMABARA REBELLION WAS AN UPRISING BY CHRISTIANS WHO HAD BEEN PROSELYTIZED BY FOREIGN MISSIONARIES.
IN OTHER WORDS, A RELIGIOUS WAR.
BUT THERE WAS MORE TO IT, IN FACT...

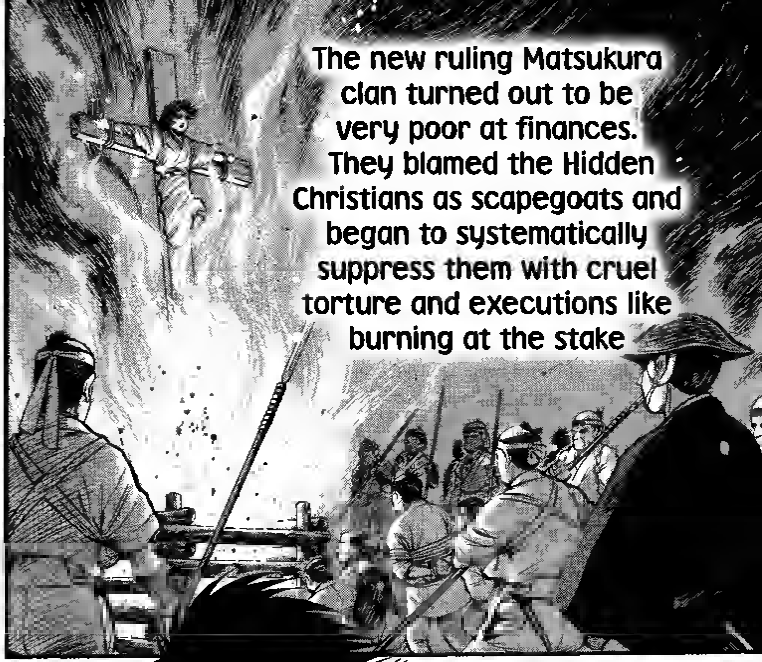

BECA-USE ...
THE REMNANTS HIDEYOSHI TOYOTOMI'S FOLLOWERS WERE ACTUALLY BEHIND IT!
!


IT WAS A MOVEMENT THAT WISHED TO TURN THE COUNTRY AWAY FROM THE PEACE OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE, THEN IN ITS 3RD GENERATION, AND RETURN US TO THE CHAOS OF THE WARRING STATES.

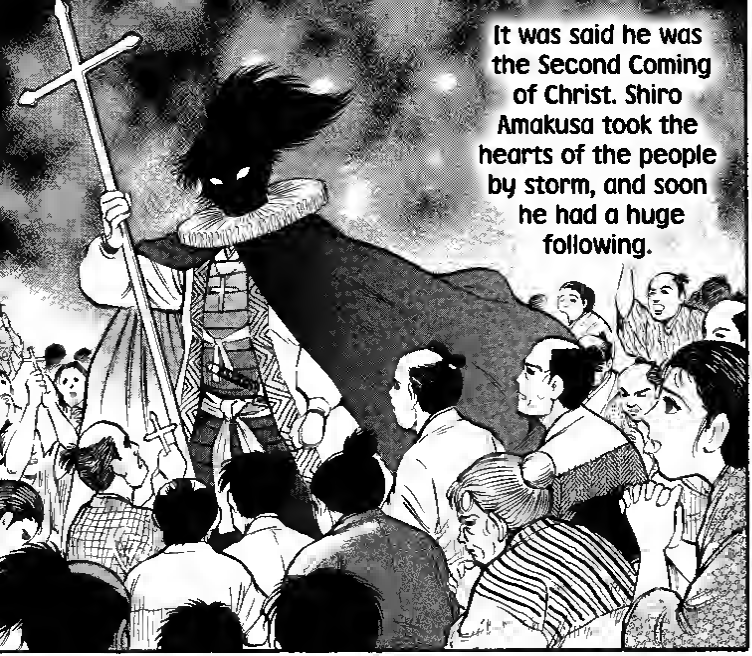

One could also say Shimabara was the ocean gateway to the rest of the world. There was much contact with foreigners through trade and and other matters, so the factors contributing to the rise of Christianity were many.
During the Warring States period, the daimyo like Yukinaga Konishi and Harunobu Arima that were feudal lords of Shimabara Peninsula and the Amakusa area were Christians. Because of this the Christian faith was widespread among the populace as well.

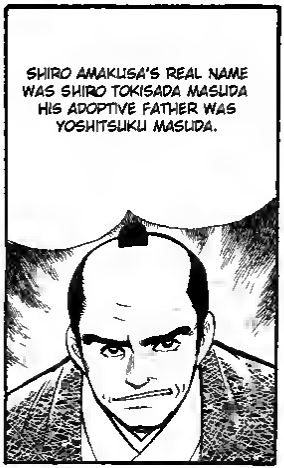

They outwardly pretended to have renounced it, but secretly they continued to practice the faith.
When the Tokugawa came to power they implemented the sakoku policy of national isolation and a ban on Christianity. However, even after the ban there were many Christians who refused to renounce.

THIS JUST DROVE THE SUFFERING POPULACE EVEN MORE INTO THE ARMS OF THE CHRISTIANS!
WHEN THE SAKOKU ORDERS CAME, EARNINGS PLUMMETED. TO MAKE UP THE DEFICIT, THE RULING CLAN INCREASED TAXES SEVERELY.
THE SHIMABARA AREA'S PROSPERITY HAD COME FROM THE PROFITS OF FOREIGN TRADE.


The new ruling Matsukura clan turned out to be very poor at finances. They blamed the Hidden Christians as scapegoats and began to systematically suppress them with cruel torture and executions like burning at the stake

THE RESISTANCE OF THE CHRISTIANS TO THE RULING CLAN ONLY DEEPENED THE SYMPATHY FELT FOR THE CHRISTIANS BY THE HEAVILY TAXED PEASANTS
AND AT THAT MOMENT, SHIRO AMAKUSA APPEARED!

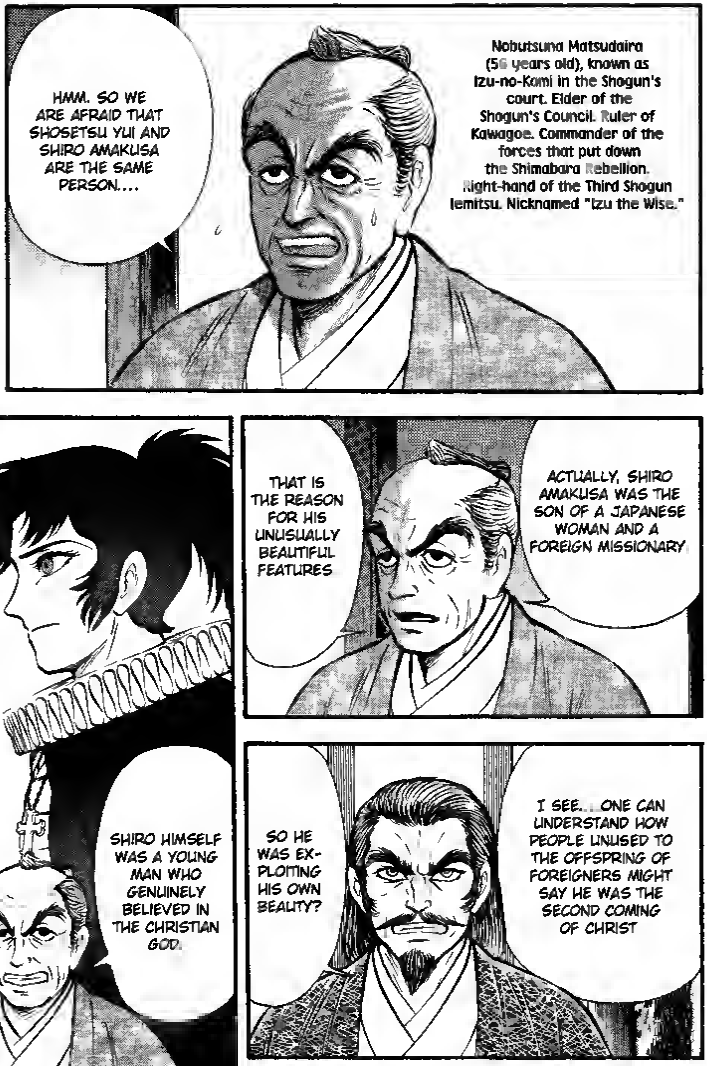

It was said he was the Second Coming of Christ. Shiro Amakusa took the hearts of the people by storm, and soon he had a huge following.


SHIRO AMAKUSA'S REAL NAME WAS SHIRO TOKISADA MASUDA HIS ADOPTIVE FATHER WAS YOSHITSUKU MASUDA.

EARLIER YOU SAID IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH REMNANTS OF HIDEYOSHI TOYOTOMI .
WHO WAS HE, THIS SHIRO AMAKUSA?

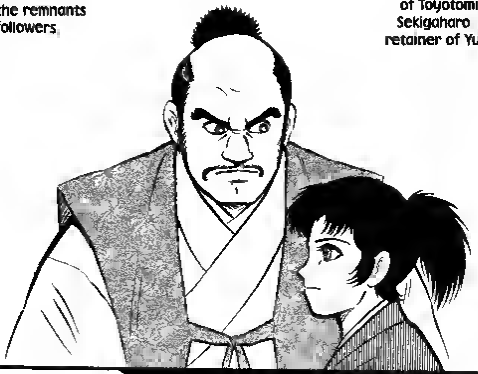
LORD MATSUDAIRA HAS ARRIVED.
OH, HE'S HERE PERFECT TIMING.
NOBUTSUNA KNOWS ALL ABOUT AMAKUSA.
MATSUDAI-RA!? LORD IZU-NO-KAMI(OKI) ?

GOOD EVENING. YOU SAID THERE WAS A PRESSING MATTER
INDEED THERE IS


HMM. SO WE ARE AFRAID THAT SHOSETSU YUI AND SHIRO AMAKUSA ARE THE SAME PERSON....
Nobutsuna Matsudaira (56 years old), known as Izu-no-Kami in the Shogun's court. Elder of the Shogun's Council. Ruler of Kawagoe. Commander of the forces that put down the Shimabara Rebellion. Right-hand of the Third Shogun Iemitsu. Nicknamed "Izu the Wise."
THAT IS THE REASON FOR HIS UNUSUALLY BEAUTIFUL FEATURES
ACTUALLY, SHIRO AMAKUSA WAS THE SON OF A JAPANESE WOMAN AND A FOREIGN MISSIONARY
SHIRO HIMSELF WAS A YOUNG MAN WHO GENUINELY BELIEVED IN THE CHRISTIAN GOD.
SO HE WAS EXPLOITING HIS OWN BEAUTY?
I SEE... ONE CAN UNDERSTAND HOW PEOPLE UNUSED TO THE OFFSPRING OF FOREIGNERS MIGHT SAY HE WAS THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

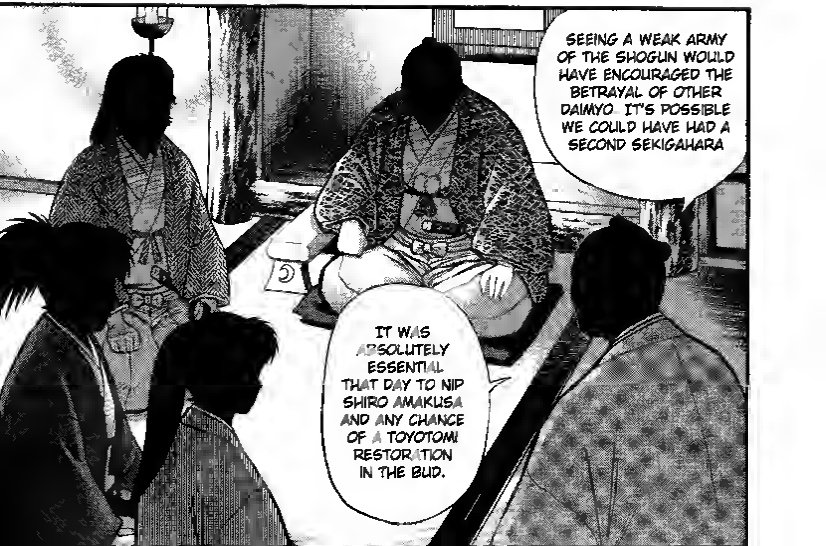
Wishing for the restoration of the Toyotomi, Masuda spread the rumor that Shiro was Hideyori Toyotomi's love child while secretly marshaling the remnants of the Toyotomi followers.

He was an orphan. His adoptive father Yoshitsuku Masuda was one of the followers of Toyotomi defeated at Sekigahara. He was an old retainer of Yukinaga Konishi.



THE FORCES I FOUGHT AGAINST WERE SOLDIERS PRETENDING TO BE PEASANTS AND CHRISTIANS FOLLOWERS OF TOYOTOMI WHO WERE VETERANS OF THE BATTLES OF SEKIGAHARA AND OSAKA!
IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THE SHIMABARA REBELLION WAS AN UPRISING OF CHRISTIANS AND SLAVES, BUT THAT IS FALSE!

IF HARA CASTLE, WHERE THE REBEL FORCES WERE LAID OUT, HAD HELD OUT LONGER, THE SITUATION COULD HAVE BECOME MUCH WORSE.
IN THE END, THE SHOGUN'S ARMY OF 130,000 SALLIED FORTH AND THERE WAS AN ENORMOUS BATTLE


SEEING A WEAK ARMY OF THE SHOGUN WOULD HAVE ENCOURAGED THE BETRAYAL OF OTHER DAIMYO. IT'S POSSIBLE WE COULD HAVE HAD A SECOND SEKIGAHARA
IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT DAY TO NIP SHIRO AMAKUSA AND ANY CHANCE OF A TOYOTOMI RESTORATION IN THE BUD.

IF THEY GET AN OPEN-ING.
INDEED, THERE ARE MANY EVEN NOW WHO YEARN FOR THE TIME OF IMPERIAL ADVISOR HIDEYOSHI.
IT WAS ONLY 15 YEARS SINCE THE FALL OF THE TOYOTOMI, AND THERE WERE MANY DAIMYO UNSATISFIED WITH THE TOKUGAWA SYSTEM.
WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE TOKUGAWA ERA HAD ARRIVED AND WE ALREADY HAD THE 3RD SHOGUN PRINCE IEMITSU...
THE WHOLE COUNTRY COULD BE OVER-THROWN!
BEFORE THE OFFENSIVE BEGAN, JUBEI YAGYU AND A PARTY OF NINJA TRAINED BY HANZO HATTORI INFILTRATED HARA CASTLE
THEIR GOAL WAS TO TAKE OUT SHIRO AMAKUSA AND THE OLD RETAINERS OF TOYOTOMI

AND THUS...
JUBEI CUT HIM DOWN!

BUT IS A RETURN TO THE CHAOS OF WAR BETTER?
I CAN'T SAY THAT EVERYTHING IS GOOD ABOUT THE WORLD OF TOKUGAWA....
FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE WE REQUEST YOUR POWER, LORD TENGU!
IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO DEAL WITH!
THE REBELLION WAS TRULY CRUSHED. BUT IF THE SEED OF REBELLION IS SPREADING AGAIN...
IT IS A REQUEST FROM THE SHOGUN!
WHAT SAY YOU, LORD SHINNOSUKE AOI?

IT MATTERS NOT WHO IS MAKING THE REQUEST WE CANNOT LEAVE THAT DEMON TO ITS OWN DEVICES!
HOWEVER IT HAPPENED, SHOSETSU YUI IS AN EVIL MONSTER!
THE WORLD CANNOT ABIDE IT!

EXACTLY RIGHT, LORD AOI!
AS HE DIED, SHIRO AMAKUSA FELT THAT HIS GOD HAD BETRAYED HIS GENUINE FAITH
THROUGH THAT BITTERNESS, HE BECAME AN EVIL SPIRIT AND WAS POSSESSED BY A MAGATSUHI!

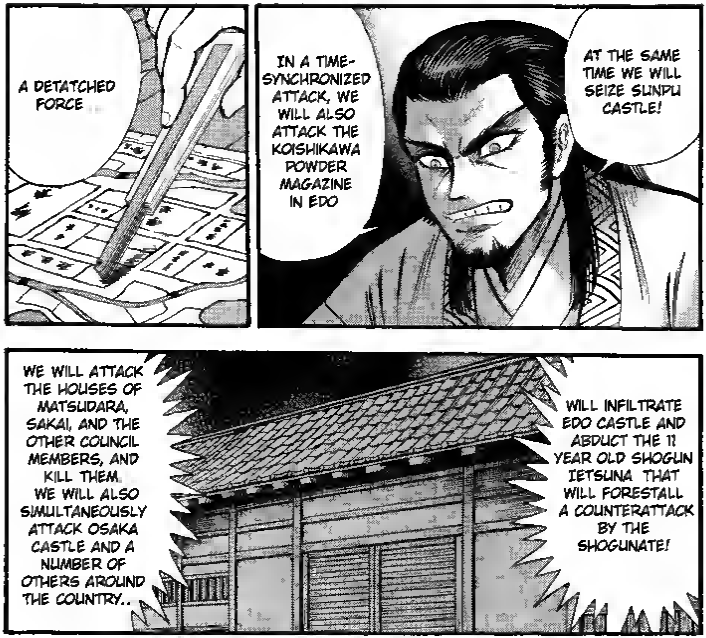
OCHANOMIZU
HOUZOUIN
SPEAR
TECHNIQUE
MARUBASHI
DOJO

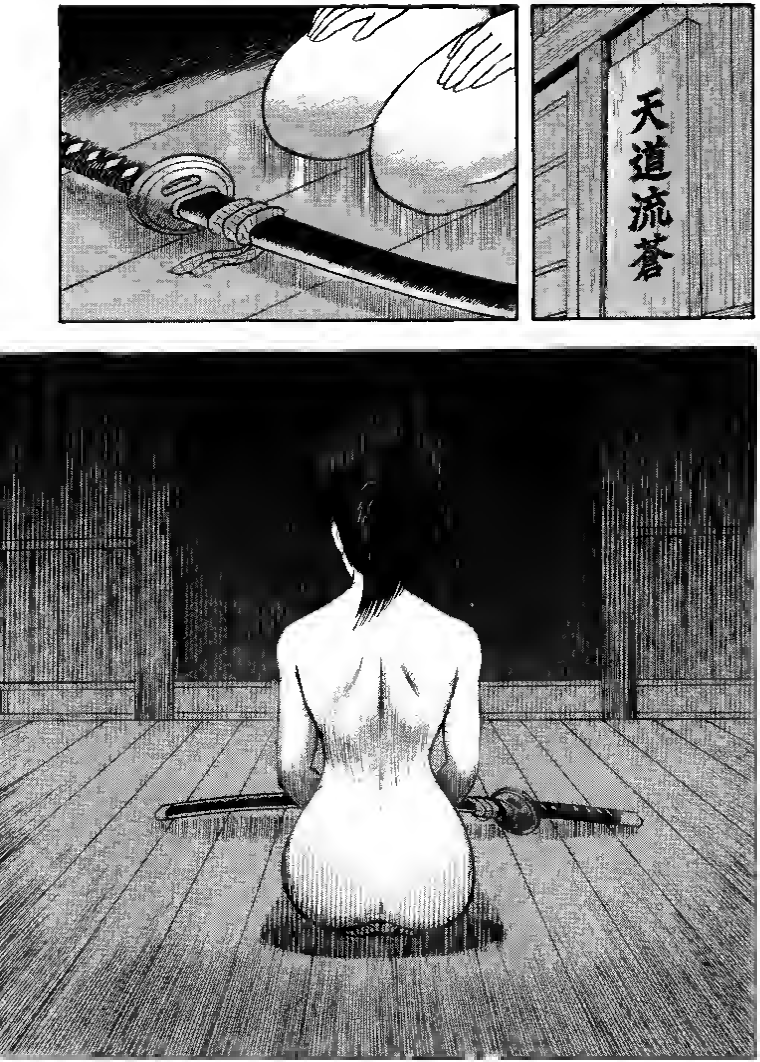
HE PLANS TO OVERTHROW THE SHOGUN AND BATHE EDO IN A SEA OF FLAMES!
RESURRECTED AS A SPIRIT MONSTER, SHOSETSU YUI EMBRACED THE MALICE IN SHIRO AMAKUSA!
SHINNOSUKE AOI! YOU ARE THE BLUE DRAGON TENGU. CUT DOWN SHOSETSU YUI!!

THEY CALL IT A WORLD OF PEACE! BUT IS IT NOT JUST A WORLD OF TOKUGAWA!?
AS A RESULT, THE NUMBER OF RONIN SOLDIERS HAS RISEN TO AN ESTIMATED 400,000 MEN.
THE DESPISED 3RD SHOGUN IEMITSU ELIMINATED DAIMYO AFTER DAIMYO

ALL THE GOOD STUFF WILL GO TO THE PRIVILEGED FEW. THERE IS NO FUTURE FOR US RONIN
IEMITSU IS DEAD. THE NEW SHOGUN IS ONLY 11. IT WILL BE IEMITSU'S COUNCIL RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT!
IN OTHER WORDS, THE GOV'ERNMENT WON'T BE CHANG-ING!
WE MUST STAND UP FOR OUR-SELVES!
THEN WE WILL BEGIN TO SEE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF RONIN STANDING UP TO OPPOSE THE TOKUGAWA!
AND ANOTHER 3000 WILL JOIN AS SOON AS THEY HEAR OF THIS!
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WE HAVE 3000 MEN WITH US IN THIS PLAN!
GENTLE-MEN!
THE TIME HAS COME FOR US TRUE WARRIORS TO TAKE OUR PLACE IN THE SUN!

ARE YOU WILLING TO TRUST ME, SHOSETSU YUI, WITH YOUR LIVES AND THROW YOUR SOULS INTO THE OVERTHROW OF THE SHOGUN!?
YES! WITH SPIRIT SUCH AS THAT, OUR VICTORY IS ASSURED!
TELL US OF YOUR PLAN, MASTER!
RIGHT!
THIS IS WAR! FOR WAR WE MUST HAVE A LONG-TERM PLAN.
IF BY CHANCE THE WAR DRAGS ON, WE MUST HAVE FUNDS FOR THE CAMPAIGN.
THE BEST PLACE TO GET MONEY TO OVERTHROW THE TOKUGAWA IS FROM THE TOKUGAWA! IN KUNOZAN THE FIRST SHOGUN IEYASU LIES IN A TOMB FILLED WITH GOLD! THAT SLEEPING GOLD WILL BECOME OUR WAR CHEST!!


A DETATCHED FORCE
IN A TIME-SYNCHRONIZED ATTACK, WE WILL ALSO ATTACK THE KOISHIKAWA POWDER MAGAZINE IN EDO
AT THE SAME TIME WE WILL SEIZE SUNPU CASTLE!
WE WILL ATTACK THE HOUSES OF MATSUDARA, SAKAI, AND THE OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND KILL THEM. WE WILL ALSO SIMULTANEOUSLY ATTACK OSAKA CASTLE AND A NUMBER OF OTHERS AROUND THE COUNTRY..
WILL INFILTRATE EDO CASTLE AND ABDUCT THE 11 YEAR OLD SHOGUN IETSUNA THAT WILL FORESTALL A COUNTERATTACK BY THE SHOGUNATE!
IF ONLY 40 OR 50% OF THEM SUCCEED THE SHOGUNATE WILL SUFFER A SEVERE BLOW!!
NOT ALL OF THESE ATTACKS MUST BE A SUCCESS!


SIGN: TENDO RYU AOI
天道流蒼

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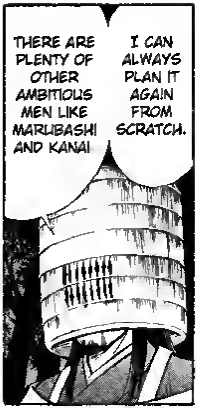
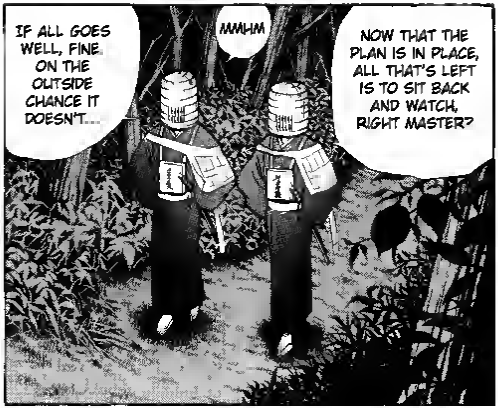
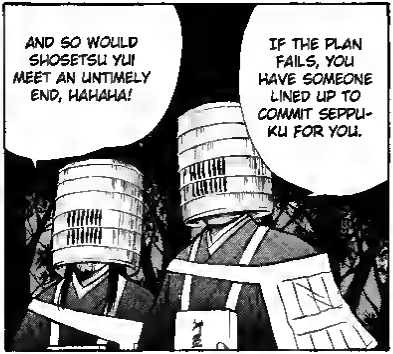
YOU REALLY ARE QUITE MYSTERIOUS...
FROM WOMAN TO MAN.

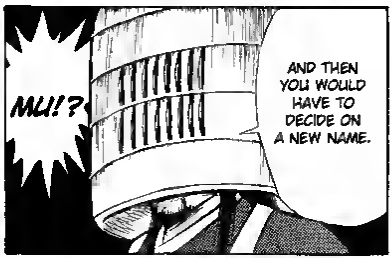
I THINK I'M MORE AND MORE IN LOVE!
DON'T SAY THAT! THERE'S NO WAY A MONSTER COULD BE SO BEAUTIFUL!
SOME SORT OF GRISLY MONSTER, RIGHT?
HAHA
OF COURSE, I'VE KNOWN IT WAS TRUE, BUT SEEING IT IN PERSON IS A SURPRISE.
A...ANYWAY!
.....

TO DEFEAT A MONSTER LIKE SHOSETSU YUI WILL REQUIRE A MONSTER LIKE ME!


I CAN ALWAYS PLAN IT AGAIN FROM SCRATCH.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER AMBITIOUS MEN LIKE MARUBASHI AND KANAI


NOW THAT THE PLAN IS IN PLACE, ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO SIT BACK AND WATCH, RIGHT MASTER?
MMHM
IF ALL GOES WELL, FINE. ON THE OUTSIDE CHANCE IT DOESN'T...


IF THE PLAN FAILS, YOU HAVE SOMEONE LINED UP TO COMMIT SEPPUKU FOR YOU.
AND SO WOULD SHOSETSU YUI MEET AN UNTIMELY END, HAHAHA!


AND THEN YOU WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ON A NEW NAME.
MU!?

KNOW THAT THE HOUNDS DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN IN THE CELESTIAL FOX HAVE COME TO DEAL WITH YOU!!
SHOSETSU YUI! YOU ARE THE SPIRIT MONSTER WHO HAS TAKEN OVER SHIRO AMAKUSA'S BODY!

CAN YOU USE A SWORD !?

NO...
FU...
IT'S SHINNOSUKE AOI, RIGHT? THE GIRL FROM BEFORE?
TONIGHT, I HAVE COME AS A MAN.
I INTEND TO CUT YOU DOWN TONIGHT, SHOSETSU YUI!

SO IT WAS YOU WHO DID THAT!?
YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME, WHO CUT DOWN JUBEI YAGYU!?
YOU THINK YOU CAN!?
EVEN MORE REASON TO CUT YOU DOWN!
AOI..

AH!?
ゴオオオオ
ゴゴゴゴゴ

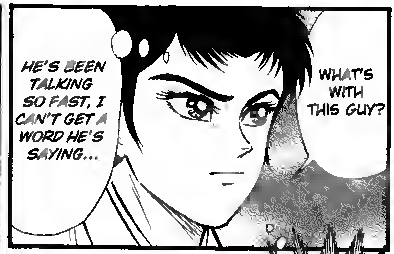
LOOK OUT!
KUH!
SO, YOU'RE A DEMON!? OR IS IT AN ILLUSION!?

ぶっ
AOI!!!
SLOW...

I'M OVER HERE, IF YOU WANT ME!
WHAT DID YOU JUST CUT!?
CHIKA!
SO I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF PINNING HER DOWN!
IT LOOKED LIKE SHE WAS ABOUT TO USE SOME WEIRD POWER AGAIN...

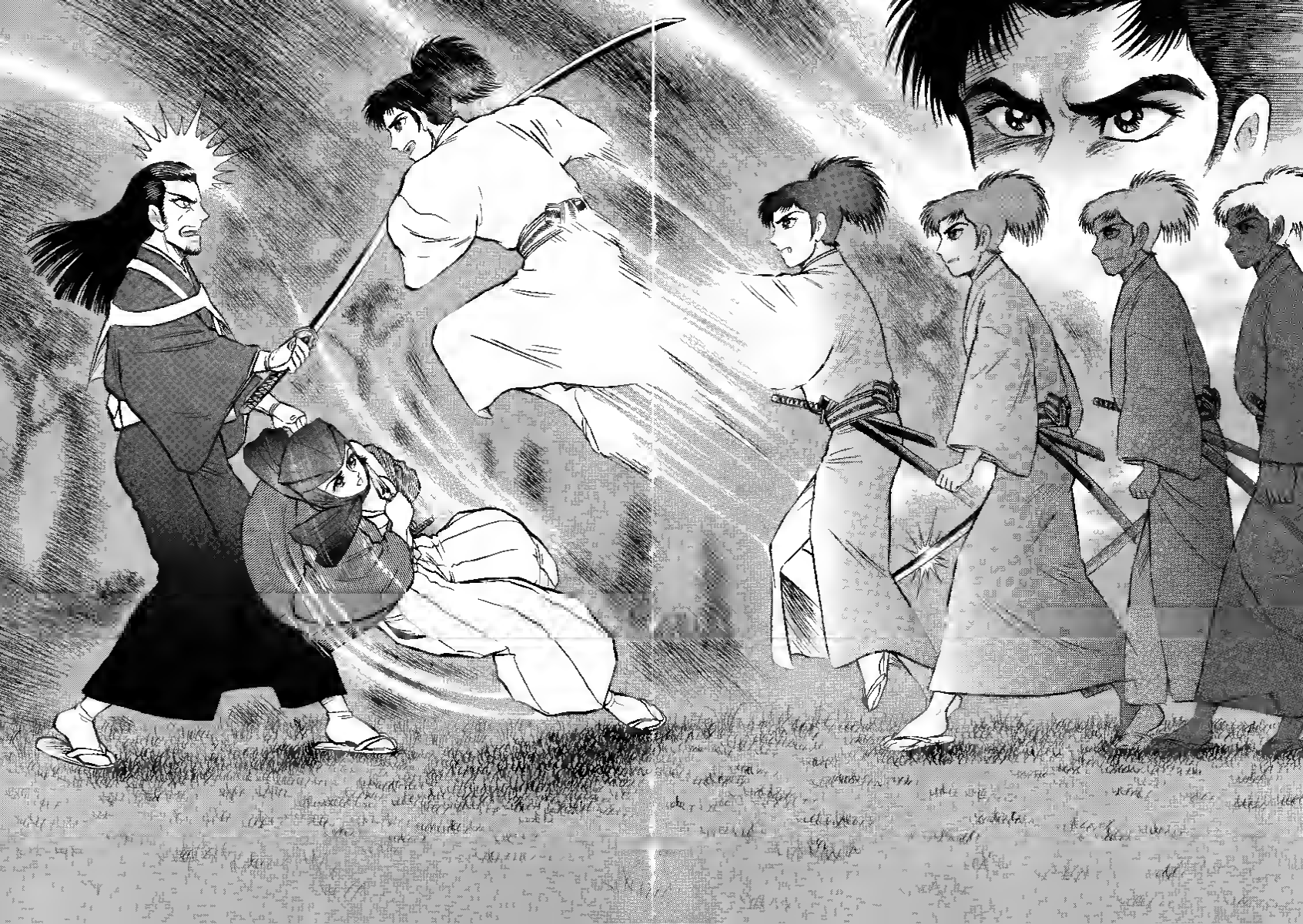
!?
TO A GUY WHO'S NOT REALLY A GUY, DOES A GIRL OR TWO MATTER? YOU OKAY IF I KILL HER?
SO WHAT WILL YA DO, GIRLY-MAN!?
OR MAYBE YOU'RE HOOKED ON HER A BIT AND YOU'D LIKE TO HELP?

THAT MEANS TIME IS FLOWING AT A DIFFERENT PACE FOR THE TWO OF US!
OH! IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN MISS CHIKA IS DOING IT!
ANY OF THE MOVEMENTS I MAKE WILL LOOK SLOW TO HIM...


HE'S BEEN TALKING SO FAST, I CAN'T GET A WORD HE'S SAYING...
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?

Oh! Maybe he's caught up in "Slow Time"!?

So even if I lunge at him, it will still look slow to him.
If she suddenly dispels the slow time then...
It'll look like I'm suddenly moving fast!
Shosetsu will not be able to parry my sword.
That's why Miss Chika is doing it!



K!!!
シュッシュー!!
神雲流秘奥
はあ
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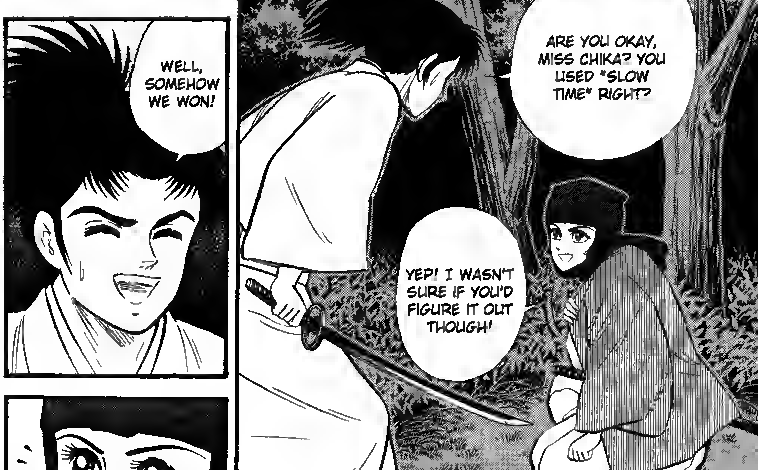

ARE YOU OKAY, MISS CHIKA? YOU USED "SLOW TIME" RIGHT?
YEP! I WASN'T SURE IF YOU'D FIGURE IT OUT THOUGH!
WELL, SOMEHOW WE WON!

神霊退散

Look out!
HE'S NOT DEAD!?

ゲゲゲゲゲ

ガッ!

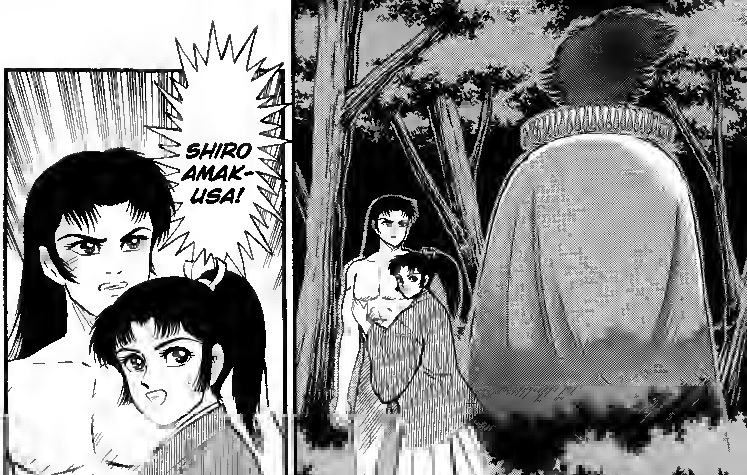
ハッキャッ
SPIRIT MON-STER!
ヒエッ

ギュルル
ガアア
ビビビ
ギュルル

THE BLUE DRA-GON !?

はぁはぁ
はぁはぁ
HOW...
MUCH...

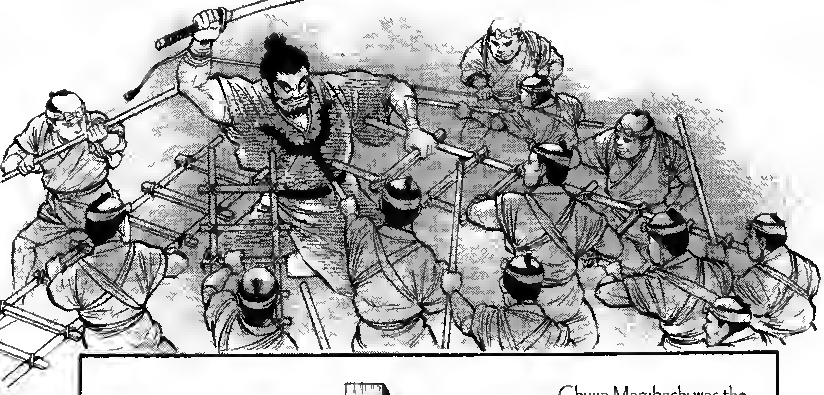
MONS-
TER!?
NO!
HOW MUCH OF A MON-STER AM I?
YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE A MONSTER.
!?
YOU ARE THE BLUE DRAGON, ONE OF THE FOUR SACRED BEASTS. AND YOU ARE MY GUARDIAN ANGEL.

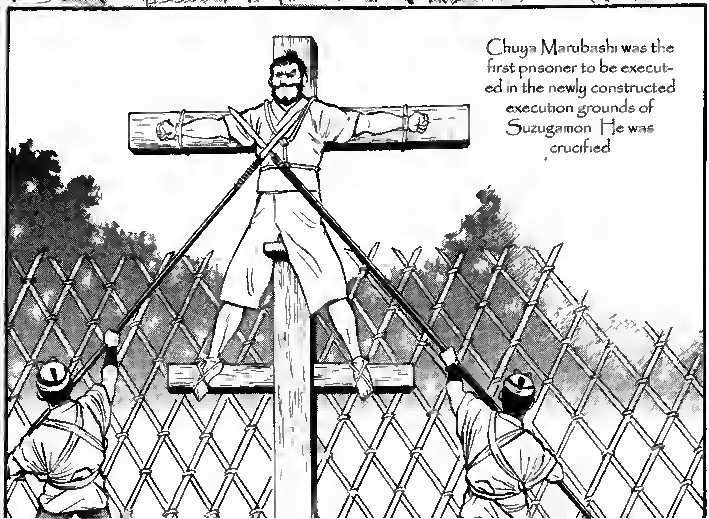

SHIRO AMAK-USA!

LORD AOI?
HUH!?
ONCE THE DEMON THAT HAD POSSESSED HIM WAS DESTROYED, HE WAS RELEASED.....HE SEEMED HAPPY AND HIS SOUL SEEMED TO HAVE REGAINED ITS ORIGINAL BEAUTY.
HM?
HE... VAN-ISHED.

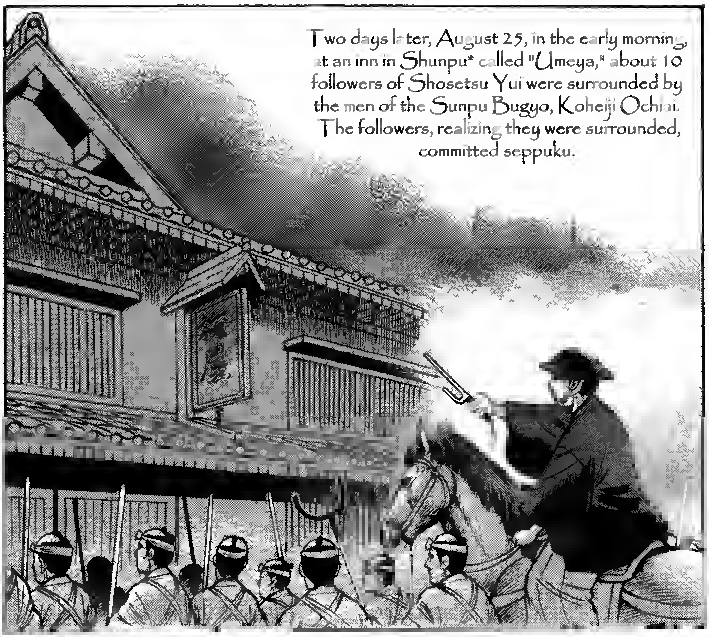
AH!
YOU'RE A GIRL AGAIN!

August 23, 1651
The attempt by Chuya Marubashi and ten-odd followers to overthrow the Tokugawa shogunate and seize power was betrayed by followers who were overcome with fear, and the conspirators were arrested.





Chuya Marubashi was the first prisoner to be executed in the newly constructed execution grounds of Suzugamon. He was crucified.


*Today Shizuoka City
Two days later, August 25, in the early morning, at an inn in Shunpu* called "Umeya," about 10 followers of Shosetsu Yui were surrounded by the men of the Sunpu Bugyo, Koheiji Ochiai. The followers, realizing they were surrounded, committed seppuku.

Records disagree as to whether Shosetsu was 42 or 47 years old, and there is no positive proof that the head on display was even his.

Inside they found a man calling himself Minbunosuke Kusunoki Shosetsu Tachibana. Feeling certain he must be none other than Shosetsu Yui, they left his head on a gibbet by the banks of the Abe River.